

PHIL 101-81: Introduction to Philosophy
Second Exam Study Questions

1. Provide brief definitions for each of the following terms:

Altruism
Consequentialism
Deontological
Divine Command Theory/Divine Will Theory
Epistemology
Ethical Relativism (including Individual Relativism and Cultural Relativism)
Ethical Egoism
Ethics
Eudemonia
Eudemonism
Hedonism
Metaphysics
Neomort
Ontology
Philosophy
Prima facie duties
Principle of basic liberty for all
Principle of justice in acquisition
Principle of justice in transfer
Principle of rectification of injustice in holdings
Scientific Theory
Slippery Slope Argument
Social Contract Theory
Utilitarianism
Veil of Ignorance

2. What is Aristotle's Doctrine of the Golden Mean?

3. Summarize Socrates' views concerning ethics.

4. Summarize Ruth Fulton Benedict's views concerning ethics. How does she argue in favor of her view? What are the strengths of her view? What are the weaknesses?

5. Suppose you were an anthropologist (or philosopher) visiting the Melanesian culture described by Fortune and Benedict. Would you share your food with those who have less? Would you accept food from others? Why?

6. Explain Kant's Categorical Imperative.

7. Summarize William Davis Ross' views concerning ethics. What are the strengths of his view? What are the weaknesses?

8. Identify and provide examples of five *prima facie* duties.

9. What was the Ring of Gyges? What ethical thesis was the story supposed to test?
10. What is “the Prisoner’s Dilemma”? What conclusions does Peter Singer draw from the story?
11. Given his discussion of the Prisoner’s Dilemma, how do you think Peter Singer might analyze the Ring of Gyges? Provide sufficient detail and arguments to support your conclusions.
12. Explain the difference between Intrinsic and Extrinsic Values.
13. Explain the difference between Act and Rule Utilitarianism.
14. Explain the difference between Metaethics and Normative Ethics.
15. In the dialogue, *It’s Just Not Fair*, Martha tells the story of a dying man who was given the opportunity to visit both heaven and hell. Retell, in your own words, Martha’s story. What conclusions does she draw? Do you agree? Disagree? Why?
16. Describe Plato’s plan for an ideal society (in *The Republic*). What role would education and censorship play in his society? Why?
17. Summarize Plato’s view concerning justice. What is it? Why is it important?
18. Summarize John Stuart Mill’s views concerning ethics. What are the strengths of his view? What are the weaknesses?
19. Summarize John Rawls’ views concerning justice. What are the strengths of his view? What are the weaknesses?
20. Summarize Robert Nozick’s views concerning justice. What are the strengths of his view? What are the weaknesses?
21. What position does Jane English take concerning abortion? Why? What are the strengths of her view? What are the weaknesses?
22. Summarize Shelby Steele’s views concerning race relations. What does he mean by “innocence”? What are the strengths of his view? What are the weaknesses?
23. Why, in “My Dinner with Andre,” does Andre refuse to use an electric blanket?
24. What is anencephaly? What challenges does it pose for our society?
25. What, according to Thomas Murray, is “the growing danger from gene-spliced hormones?” Do you agree with assessment of the situation? Why?
26. Thomas Murray discusses (i) making hGH available to any who can afford it, and (ii) making hGH available at public expense to all children whose parents want it. What

- does he see as the consequences (pro and con) of each approach? What does he recommend? Do you agree? Why?
27. What problems does Willard Gaylin associate with the acceptance of *brain death* as a new definitional standard? Do you share his concerns? Why?
 28. Willard Gaylin suggests a series of possible uses for neomorts. Identify and discuss three of those possible uses. What concerns does Gaylin raise regarding those uses? Do you agree? Why?
 29. Do you think we have (or will have) the power to create a world such as the one envisioned by Aldous Huxley in *Brave New World*? What, if anything, do you find objectionable about such a society? What, if anything, do you regard as its strength and appeal?
 30. Compare and contrast the views of Douglas Shrader (*Death and Beyond*) and Willard Gaylin (*Harvesting the Dead*) concerning (i) the definition and determination of death and (ii) the proper treatment of individuals who have been pronounced dead. To what extent are their views similar? Different? Who, if either, is right? Why?
 31. Compare and contrast the views presented by Thomas Murray (*The Growing Danger From Gene-Spliced Hormones*) and Aldous Huxley (*Brave New World*). What are the central issues? To what extent are their views similar? Different? What do you think about these issues? Why?
 32. In *Matters of Theory*, Douglas Shrader discusses five general problems that pertain to any scientific test. Identify three.
 33. In *Matters of Theory*, Douglas Shrader argues that a successful scientific theory sows the seeds of his own replacement. Represent, clearly, both the structure and substance of his argument. Do you agree with his conclusions? Why?
 34. Explicate and discuss Thomas Kuhn's views concerning scientific discovery. Do you agree with his analysis? Why?
 35. Both Shrader (*Matters of Theory*) and Kuhn (*Historical Structure of Scientific Discovery*) speak of scientific revolutions. Explicate and discuss this important concept, paying particular attention to the thought of both authors.
 36. What, according to Douglas Shrader (*If a Tree Falls...*), is "the most basic, fundamental, and controversial issue raised by the question about the falling tree?"
 37. Explicate Heisenberg's Uncertainty Relation. What lessons can we learn from the relation?
 38. What is Schrodinger's cat? What lessons can we learn from it?
 39. In Plato's Allegory of the Cave, what happens to the prisoner who returns to the cave?

40. Describe, briefly but clearly, the experience of the released prisoner who climbs from Plato's allegorical cave?
41. Why does Descartes posit an evil spirit?
42. What according to the second meditation of Descartes, am I?
43. Discuss the connections between experience and reality. Pay particular attention to Heisenberg's Uncertainty Relation, the Copenhagen Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics, and Schrödinger's cat.
44. Retell, in your own terms, Plato's Allegory of the Cave. What lessons do you think Plato would have us draw from the story? What does it tell us about his metaphysical and epistemological views?