

Midterm

Instructions: Answer fifteen of the following nineteen questions. Each question is worth seven points. You may receive partial credit. If you answer more than fifteen questions, only the first fifteen will be graded.

1. "The point which I should first wish to understand is whether the holy is beloved by the gods because it is holy, or holy because it is beloved of the gods." (Plato, *Euthyphro*) Explain.
2. How might the rejection of Divine Command Theory be seen as a limitation of God's power, a rejection of God's omnipotence? Is it?
3. Describe moral isolationism. Why do some people accept it?
4. How does ethical relativism prevent criticism of other societies?
5. What is the Greatest Happiness Principle?
6. Some critics of utilitarianism charge that it takes too much time. Why would it take a lot of time? How does Mill defend against this objection?
7. "In the same manner the illustrious archbishop of Cambrai [Fenelon] was of more worth than his chambermaid." (Godwin) Explain.
8. What's the difference between an hypothetical and a categorical imperative?
9. Explain the categorical imperative in the formula of universal law.
10. What is using someone as a mere means? How is it different from using that person as a means?
11. How are Kantian ethics and utilitarianism different in terms of scope and precision, according to O'Neill? Provide examples.
12. "For as one swallow or one day does not make a spring..." (Aristotle) Explain. Be specific about the use that Aristotle makes of this statement.
13. "[V]irtue is a mean state..." (Aristotle) Explain. What lie at the extremes from this mean?
14. Describe the five elements of liberal, impersonal morality, according to MacIntyre.
15. "It is in general only within a community that individuals become capable of morality, are sustained in their morality and are constituted as moral agents..." (MacIntyre) Why? What does this mean for the liberal morality?
16. "In such a war, nothing is unjust." (Hobbes) Explain.
17. According to Locke, how is man's natural state one of perfect equality?
18. According to Locke, how do people become subject to the laws of a government?
19. Why does Hume claim that justice has no place in a state of abundance? What does he mean by justice?