

Divine Command Theory: The Basics

Answer the following questions, without using your notes.

1. Every time you come home, your dog is waiting for you at the door. Choose the option that best describes the order of explanation in this scenario and explain why.

Option 1: The fact that you are approaching your house determines (or explains, or causes) the fact that your dog is waiting at the door.

Option 2: The fact that your dog is waiting at the door determines (or explains, or causes) the fact that you are approaching your house.

Option 3: The fact that you are approaching your house and the fact that your dog is waiting at the door do not determine (or explain, or cause) each other.

2. What is divine command theory?
3. How can you believe that there is a God without believing in divine command theory? (Hint: think about order of explanation here.)
4. Why might a believer in an all-powerful God be attracted to divine command theory?
5. *Challenge Question:* If divine command theory were true, how should we figure out whether a certain action is required, forbidden, or permissible? For instance, suppose we're trying to figure out if we think non-monogamy is permissible. How should we figure that out?
6. *Challenge Question:* Summarize the linguistic argument for Divine Command Theory, in a clear series of statements following to a conclusion. Then explain what's wrong with it.

Relativism: The Basics

Answer the following questions, without using your notes.

1. Suppose that an individual believes that non-monogamy is forbidden. According to individual relativism, is non-monogamy permissible, and why?
2. Suppose that a culture believes that monogamy is worse than non-monogamy. According to cultural relativism, is monogamy or non-monogamy better, and why?
3. How can individual relativists criticize other people's actions? What about cultural relativists?
4. What attracts people (generally) to believe cultural relativism?

Psychological and Ethical Egoism: The Basics

Answer the following questions, without using your notes.

1. Identify which of the below positions is psychological egoism.
2. For each of the other positions, explain why it is not psychological egoism.
3. If it's another position that we've talked about or the reading has mentioned, explain why it is that position.
 - a. When any human is acting, she thinks that she is ultimately pursuing self-interest.
 - b. All actions are ultimately motivated by self-interest.
 - c. All human actions are ultimately motivated by self-interest.
 - d. All human actions should be ultimately motivated by self-interest.
 - e. When any human is acting, he is ultimately motivated by his pleasure and pain.
 - f. All human actions advance our self-interest.
4. If someone is a psychological egoist, why could it seem pointless to also be an ethical egoist?
5. What is hedonism?

PP and EE: Redux; Utilitarianism: The Basics

Zephyr regularly donates to charity.

- a. How might the psychological egoist argue that her donations are ultimately self-interested?

- b. How might the ethical egoist argue that her donations are morally right?

Define the following terms in the table, without using your notes.

<u>Utilitarianism:</u>		
<u>Act Utilitarianism:</u>		<u>Rule Utilitarianism:</u>
<u>Maximizing Conception:</u>	<u>Non-Maximizing Conception:</u>	<u>Challenge Question:</u> What would a utilitarian (of any kind) say about how we treat animals?

Mill and Ross: The Basics

Answer the following questions, without using your notes. Do the challenge questions only after finishing all the other questions.

8. Wilfred does shrooms in his room.
 - g. How might a rule utilitarian argue that Wilfred's action is forbidden?

 - h. How might a rule utilitarian argue that Wilfred's action is permissible?

9. What's an example of a 'higher' pleasure, according to Mill? And a 'lower' pleasure?
 - a. Challenge Question: what is Mill's argument for judging higher pleasures to be better than lower pleasures?

10. What is deontology?

11. What conditional duties does Ross say that we have? List at least two.
 - a. Challenge Question: should any of those duties be amended or abandoned? Are there duties Ross is missing?

12. What are the two ways that a conditional duty can become your actual duty, according to Ross?

13. What's the crucial flaw in utilitarianism, according to Ross?