

Preview of Test 1

The test will be given in class on Friday, October 9. I anticipate that you will be asked to answer five of the twelve questions listed at the end of this document, though I reserve the right to depart from this plan if circumstances seem to warrant it.

You do not need to bring anything, except for something to write with; this will be a closed-book, closed-notes test, and you will be provided with paper on which to write your answers. At the beginning of the exam period, the following instructions will be written on the board:

1. Please put away everything except for something to write with.
2. Please use a separate sheet of paper for each answer.
3. Please number each of your answers conspicuously.

Then the following will happen:

1. I will ask you to close and/or put away all books, notebooks, newspapers, calculators, computers, and other possible sources of inappropriate aid.
2. I will hand out blank sheets of paper that you will use as your answer sheets.
3. I will hand out the list of questions given below.
4. I will tell you which five questions the test consists of.
5. You will answer the questions on the answer sheets, using a separate answer sheet for each question.
6. You will label each answer sheet that you will turn in with one of your random numbers. You'll use the same random number for each of your answer sheets, but this will not be any random number that you have used in this class previously (i.e., for the first paper assignment). You will not put any other identifying information (such as your name) on any of your answer sheets.
7. You will turn in your answer sheets. You will not need to turn in the list of questions.

Here is some additional information:

1. You can write on the list of questions that I hand out, but credit will be awarded only for answers written on answer sheets.
2. You will not be allowed to (a) access any book, notebook, newspaper, calculator, computer, or other possible source of inappropriate aid during the test, (b) leave the room before you are finished taking the test, or (c) use more time than the 50-minute testing period. No credit will be given for any work done after you access any possible source of inappropriate aid, after you leave the room for any reason, or after the end of the testing period.

Finally, the twelve questions I mentioned are on the next page.

1. What are the defining claims of moral realism? What are the two main alternatives to moral realism?
2. What is the Open Question Argument? What sort of view is it meant to refute?
3. What are the defining tenets of expressivism?
4. Why does Blackburn call his view 'quasi-realism' and not 'realism' or 'anti-realism'?
5. Quinn observes that divine command theorists have the following options (among others) regarding what to claim is the dependency relation between God's will and moral properties: sameness of meaning, necessary coextensiveness, and bringing about. He endorses one of these three. Which one of these does he endorse, and why does he reject the other two?
6. What explanation(s) does Rachels give of (1) the fact that most people are kin altruistic and (2) the fact that most people are reciprocally altruistic?
7. What sort of process is reflective equilibrium (i.e., what is it supposed to accomplish), and what are its main steps?
8. What does Caputo mean by giving up on the enterprise of ethical theory, and what is his main reason for advocating this?
9. What is psychological egoism, and what is Sober's main argument against it?
10. Why, according to Thomas, would a psychologically healthy person embrace an altruistic conception of morality?
11. What does it mean for an approach to ethics (such as act-utilitarianism) to be indirect?
12. What is the difference between rule-consequentialism and act-consequentialism? What is Hooker's main argument in favor of the former versus the latter?