

University of Kansas, Fall 2006
Philosophy 666: Rational Choice Theory
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Preview of test on utility theory

(This is a draft version, as of September 15. I plan to post the final version on the course web site on September 18.)

The test will be given in class on Friday, September 22. You do not need to bring anything, except for something to write with; this will be a closed-book, closed-notes exam, 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. This exam may be graded on a curve.
3. Please number each of your 10 answers conspicuously.

Also, you will be asked to close and/or put away all books, notebooks, newspapers, calculators, computers, cell phones, and other possible sources of inappropriate aid. The instructions at the top of the exam will read as follows:

1. Answer all of the following questions on the answer sheets provided. You can write on this list of questions, but credit will be awarded only for answers written on answer sheets.
2. Do not access any book, notebook, newspaper, calculator, computer, cell phone, or other possible source of inappropriate aid during the exam, do not leave the room before you are finished taking the exam, and be sure to finish the exam within this 50-minute class 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 this class period.
3. When you are finished, be sure your name is written on each of your answer sheets, and turn them in. You do not need to turn in this list of questions.

Then there will be 10 questions.

1. Questions 1–5 will pertain to sections 1–9 of my handouts, and each will pretty closely resemble a question at the end of one of those sections and/or a homework problem assigned for credit for one of those sections. You will not be responsible for anything having to do with Problem Set 4, numbers 3 and 4 (on linear programming and the Traveling Salesman Problem).
2. Questions 6–7 will pretty closely resemble questions in Problem Set 10 and/or homework problems for credit for section 10.
3. Questions 8–9 will pretty closely resemble questions in Problem Set 11 and/or homework problems for credit for section 11.
4. Question 10 is about the representation theorem, but you do not need to memorize the six conditions that are part of the representation theorem—it's more of a “big picture” question.