**Chapter 4 Egoism Review Questions**

**Correction**:

**Egotist** is someone who thinks too highly of himself; someone who thinks he is the best.

**Egoist** is someone who acts on his or her own interest

**Definitions:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Altruist | Someone who cares for other people’s interest |
| Descriptive or Psychological Egoism | “People generally act on their own interest” |
| Egoist | Someone who cares for his or her own interest |
| Laissez-faire capitalism | “Government should not interfere with the business market” |
| Normative or Ethical Egoism | “We ought to act on our interest” |
| Prisoner’s dilemma | Illustrates the conflict between self-interest and cooperating with other people |
| Reciprocal altruism | Egoist helps another person if egoist receives back some benefit |
| Social contract theory or contractarianism | People should agree to a contract that would benefit everyone |
| Weakness of the will, or akrasia | Sometimes we are unable to do things that are good or in our interest |

Ethical or normative egoism states that people generally seek their own interest.

True False

Psychological or descriptive egoism states that we ought to do what is in our own interest.

True False

The phrase ”I’ll scratch your back if you scratch mine” describes

(A) Psychological egoism (B) Ethical egoism (C) Altruism (D) Reciprocal altruism

Psychological egoism is difficult to evaluate because it is difficult to access people’s motive.

True False

All of the following are used to evaluate ethical (normative) egoism except

A Grounding from descriptive egoism B Consistency of coherency

C Conforming to commonsense moral view D Derivation from economic theory

E Weakness of the will

According to universal ethical egoism

(A) One ought to do what is best according to his or her interest

(B) People ought to do what is best according to their interest

(C) People generally do what is best for themselves

(D) People generally try to do what is best for themselves

Social contract theory assumes that human beings are psychological egoists.

True False

Social contract theory is a form of reciprocal altruism.

True False

Adam Smith believed that economic self-interest produces the best general outcome.

True False

Consider the two claims: Claim 1. "You shouldn't lie because lying will always come back to haunt you." Claim 2. "You shouldn't lie because lying always causes someone to suffer."

A They are both moral statements

B Claim 1 is based on prudence, and Claim 2 is based on morals

C Claim 1 is based on morals, and Claim 2 is based on prudence

D None of the others is true

\*\* Prisoner’s dilemma (or the game Points) illustrates

A If each player seeks his or her self-interest only, that would lead to a bad outcome for both

B If two players cooperative with each other, that would lead to a better outcome for both

C Repeat play leads to a better result

D All of the above

\*\* Not in this quiz, but maybe in the exam