Review Questions

1. According to Arthur, How are morality and religion different?

According to John Arthur morality is our attitude towards different forms of behavior. Usually morality is expressed in forms of notion of rules and regulations, rights and of course our obligations. Religion, on the other hand is our belief in God which we usually express in forms of prayers and rituals.

1. Why isn’t religion necessary for moral obligation?

According to John Arthur religion is not really needed in making moral decisions. Why? Because he said that a person can’t be moral but at the same time irreligious. People according to him, when making a moral decision don’t actually give a thought about religion. Religion is just our basis of what is right and what is wrong. It is up to us to decide whether to do things the right way.

1. Why isn’t religion necessary as a source of moral knowledge?

Religion is not necessary a source of moral knowledge. We all know that there are different kinds of religion. And sometimes, we get confused on which religion is actually the right one. Arthur said that there are two forms of revelation, and not all Christians agree on which the best way to understand religion is. If we used revelation as a moral guide, we still need to interpret it and it often creates more questions and problems.

1. What is the divine command theory? Why does Arthur reject this theory?

This theory states that an act will be considered right or correct if God approves it or commanded you to do it and wrong if God forbids you to do it. Arthur rejects this theory because for him only God knows what is really right and wrong. And because we don’t really know what is right and wrong in the eyes of God, we tend to do things that are against his commands.

1. According to Arthur, how are morality and religion connected?

Religion and morality is connected in such a way that moral decisions are somehow patterned to religion. However this connection is not one-sided at all. Morality also influenced the religion. The influence brought by morality in to religion is now being discussed by the Catholic Church.

1. Dewey says that morality is social. What does this mean, according to Arthur?

Arthur means that we first learn morality by means of socializing. Our moral learning is sometimes based on what culture we are used to, what we learned from other people and from our socially learned language.

Discussion Questions

1. Has Arthur refuted the divine command theory? If not, how can it be defended?

Yes. Arthur refuted the divine command theory by means of telling other people that we should not follow or believe the divine command theory.

1. If morality is social, as Dewey says, then how can we have any obligations to nonhuman animals?

We have obligations to nonhuman animals because they are already a part of our daily lives whether we like it or not we still interact with them. These nonhuman animals provide things that we need. They can be our companion if we want to. We’re attached to them that is why we have an obligation towards them.

1. What does Dewey mean by moral education? Does a college ethics class count as moral education?

According to Dewey that teaching morality is a MUST. According to him it’s not enough to have moral training but one must be able to think imaginatively to be able to put oneself in other people’s shoes. I think an ethics class can be considered as a moral education. Why? Because I think that in ethics class will learn more about morality. We would be also have a chance to analyze different situations w/c is most likely similar to putting ourselves in other people’s shoes.