

Week 2 Questions

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August 14, 2021

1. Imagine you find out that your friend's partner was cheating on them. The partner begs you not to tell your friend. If you tell your friend, they and their partner will break up and each of them will be heartbroken for months. If you do not tell them, they will go on to have a long, happy relationship. The partner will not cheat ever again. What would an act utilitarian advise you to do, and why? **Answer**
2. Which objection that Mill considers do you think poses the most serious problem for act utilitarianism? Summarize it in your own words, and then, also in your own words, summarize Mill's response. Is his response effective? Why or why not? **Answer**
3. What is the difference between a criterion of rightness and a decision procedure? **Answer**
4. Briefly explain the difference between act consequentialism and rule consequentialism. Which do you find more attractive, and why? **Answer**
5. What is one sense in which Hooker thinks act consequentialism is unreasonably demanding? Why does he think rule consequentialism fares better in this respect? **Answer**