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PHIL-1010-002

7/1/2019

Quiz 1: Euthyphro and “What is Philosophy?” readings

1. The three major areas of philosophy are metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics and they are all interconnected. For example, take the concept of causation:

Metaphysically, we can ask: Is causation real? Does every effect have a cause?

Epistemologically, we can ask: How can we *know* if cause is real?

Ethically we can ask: If every effect has a cause, is there such a thing as free will?

Using this template, choose **two** other general concepts like causation and list questions associated with each area of philosophy as I have done above. Please be sure the questions are *interconnected* and that I can tell how one questions leads to the next (6 points total).

Concept 1: Existence of God  
 Metaphysically, we can ask: How would God exist in this world?  
 Epistemologically, we can ask: How would we know that God does exist?  
 Morally, we can ask: Would knowing change how we act?

Concept 2: Reality  
 Metaphysically, we can ask: Is the world we live in real?  
 Epistemologically, we can ask: Could we know if we were in a false reality?  
 Ethically, we can ask: Should we let people live in a false reality?

1. Pick one of the concepts you used from number 1 and ask a scientific question about it *and a differen*t philosophical question. Explain why one of the questions is scientific and the other philosophical (4 points)
2. Concept:   
    If a person desires to die, should we interfere?
3. Philosophical Question:   
    Is a person’s will to live worth less than their actual life?
4. Scientific Question:   
    Can we measure the benefit of life over death?
5. Explanation of difference:   
    The question I posed is specifically about assisted suicide and whether it should be allowed. Philosophically we must ask if a person’s life is worth living in such a state, because the suffering they would endure could outweigh any perceived benefits of their continued living. This leads into a scientific question of measurement of those benefits and what standard we should use. For instance, maybe one person has loved ones that wants them to stay around longer and another doesn’t, is because someone has family a reason to force them to live? The point I’m getting to is science can’t answer whether a person’s suffering is worth any objective benefit because a person’s suffering isn’t objective.
6. Euthyphro defines piety as what all the Gods love (5 points total)
7. What question does Socrates ask him?   
    Are we to examine this definition, Euthyphro, and see if it is a good one? Or are we to be content to accept the bare statements of other men or of ourselves without asking any questions? Or must we examine the statements?
8. Within the question that Socrates asks, there are two possible positions:
   1. Which one of the positions does Socrates think is true and why?   
       Socrates believes that it is wrong to merely take someone’s word for it as people are often wrong or lack the experience to make such statements. Within ourselves we can often believe fallacious ideals without realizing them and blindly trusting them, so we must always test our beliefs for objective truth and independent goodness.
   2. Which one of the positions does Euthyphro think is true and why?   
       Euthyphro believes that what ever the gods say must be pious and whatever they disapprove of must be impious. This is because he hasn’t tested any of the gods beliefs for objective truth and falls easily into confusion as Socrates continuous to ask questions.
   3. Whose position is the same as “Divine Command” theory? What is divine command theory?   
       Euthyphro holds the divine command position as he also believes like the theory that moral authority flows from the words of God(s). Essentially a person can only be moral if they follow the words of God(s), and only God(s) can determine what is moral.