I. Western ethical theories try to answer three broad questions?

1. What are the criteria which establish the moral community?

a. ultimate values, unconditional determine who has moral standing

b. those with moral standing have a reciprocal relationship with each

other: recognition of moral obligations

c. moral standing in Western tradition

2. How should society be organized to affirm ultimate values?

a. political, economic, legal and social organization

b. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

3. How ought I live my life?

a. how am I responsible to those with moral standing and the community?

b. what are my duties, obligations, and limits within the moral community

c. the meaning of the term "neighbor" in Western tradition

II. Environmental philosophy

A. Ethical extensionism

1. rethink our assumptions regarding the natural world and relationship with it.

2. "Thinking like a mountain"

B. Animal liberation and animal rights from point of view of environmental philosophy

1. It is still anthropocentric,

a. adult males as the paradigm for ethical standing.

b. Only animals that are enough like us should have moral standing

2. It is individualistic and rights oriented

a. repeats basic flaw in western conception of human/nature relationship

b. can't extend moral standing to species or ecosytems, wholes

B. Problem is really twofold

1. basic assumptions of western culture about man and

relation to nature is wrong

a. maya or illusion

b. ignorance

c. hubris

2. rethinking assumptions is necessary

a. categories of western thought not adequate need to engage other cultures

b. need critique

c. need to come to new understanding

d. ecology

i. study of interrelationships of living organisms with each other and their non- living environment

ii. independence of within and between

systems

iii. unintended consequences of human

activity

iv. and man's imbedded in it and not superior to or difference from it -- holism

C. Biocentric Ethics

1. Goodpaster's criticism as a transition to environmental

philosophy

"Nothing short of being alive seems to me to be a plausible and nonarbitrary criterion.

D. Biocentric ethics is an ethical positions that

1. identifies life itself as the basis of attribution moral standing

a. not particular characteristic,

b. biocentric ethics takes us beyond the hierarchy and anthropomorphism.

2. Schweitzer and reverence for life, "I am life which wills

to live, in the midst of life which wills to live"

3. "feels the compulsion to give to every will-to-live

the same reverence for life that he gives his own.

4. for Schweitzer all living things have "intrinsic value"

5. life not just"fact" that we slap value onto, but is good.

6. no formula or rule to be derived "A morally good person stands in awe of the inherent worth of each life.

7. a fundamental moral attitude in relation to the world

8. we are an attitude an embodiment of what we value and we stand in relation to the world under the horizon of those values

"Character is not like a suit of clothes that the self steps into and out of at will. Rather, the self is identical to a person's most fundamental and enduring dispositions, attitudes, values, and beliefs."

B. Ecocentric ethic goes even furher in its atempt to

establish moral standing --

1. not only all life but ecosystems **--** forests, wetlands, lakes, grasslands, deserts, the areas in which a variety of

2. livingorganizmsineract in mutally beneficial ways with their living and non- living environment

3. Ecocentric ethics raises the interesting quetion about the distinction between biotic and abiotic, is fertile land really dead, is water really dead.

4. goal

a. the**increasing of the moral sphere** to include both biotic and abiotic elements, living as well as non-living

b. a **theoretical emphasis on holism** -- the whole is more the sum of itsparts, it has a life This is significant

c. because the whole then becomes the basis of significance for the parts, the whole is the ultimate reality

d. essay "Thinking Like a Mountain" is an example of this the mountain is a metaphor for the whole, human beings and human consciousness is just one part of whole