

Midterm Exam

PHIL 105

March 16, 2017

Argument Identification (20 points)

*Pick **two passages**. Identify (i) the main point of the passage; (ii) the evidence or argument that supports this point*

1. The sort of equality we find in utilitarianism, however, is not the sort an advocate of animal or human rights should have in mind. Utilitarianism has no room for the equal moral rights of different individuals because it has no room for their equal inherent value or worth...Here is an analogy to help make the philosophical point clearer: a cup contains different liquids—sometimes sweet, sometimes bitter, sometimes a mix of the two. What has value are the liquids: the sweeter the better, the bitter the worse. The cup—the container—has no value. It's what goes into it, not what they go into, that has value. For the utilitarian, you and I are like the cup; we have no value as individuals and thus no equal value. What has value is what goes into us, what we serve as receptacles for; our feelings of satisfaction have positive value, our feelings of frustration have negative value.
2. if I did not buy and consume factory-raised meat, no animals would be spared lives of misery. Agribusiness is much too large to respond to the behavior of one consumer. Therefore I cannot prevent the suffering of any animals. I may well regret the suffering inflicted on animals for the sake of human enjoyment. I may even agree that the human enjoyment doesn't justify the suffering. However, since the animals will suffer no matter what I do, I may as well enjoy the taste of their flesh.
3. It is probably impossible to either prove or disprove the thesis that animals have moral rights by producing an analysis of the concept of a moral right and checking to see if some or all animals satisfy the conditions for having rights. The concept of a moral right is complex, and it is not clear which of its strands are essential. Paradigm rights holders, i.e., mature and mentally competent persons, are both rational and morally autonomous beings and sentient subjects-of-a-life. Opponents of animal rights claim that rationality and moral autonomy are essential for the possession of rights, while defenders of animal rights claim that they are not. The ordinary concept of a moral right is probably not precise enough to enable us to determine who is right on purely definitional grounds.

Definitions (20 points)

Pick **four** of the five and provide the definition

1. Nutritionism:
2. Sufficient condition:
3. Genealogy:
4. Act Consequentialism:
5. Sentience:

Multiple Choice (30 points)

Answer the following questions

1. What is a "check-off"?
 - A. A means of bribing government officials
 - B. A grant given to sectors of the food industry for research
 - C. A grant from the government for advertising
 - D. A mandatory deduction of industry profits specifically for the purpose of advertising and research
2. Lobsters are often boiled alive
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. What is an example of "moral hazard"?
 - A. Driving recklessly without any auto insurance
 - B. Using tobacco products despite knowing they are harmful
 - C. Lying about your health history to your doctor
 - D. Driving recklessly after purchasing auto insurance
4. A commodity is
 - A. Any good or service
 - B. A good or service for which there is little demand
 - C. A good or service which has little to no qualitative differentiation across a market
 - D. A fungible good or service

5. Broiler chickens typically have no skeletal problems
- A. True
 - B. False
6. Consequentialism claims that that moral status of an action as good/bad
- A. sometimes depends on its consequences
 - B. completely depends on its consequences
 - C. sometimes depends on its causes
 - D. completely depends on its causes
7. According to Kant, the moral status of a human being lies in their capacity for acting rationally
- A. True
 - B. False
8. Kantian Deontology says that it is ok to break a moral rule or principle if the consequences of breaking that rule are good enough
- A. True
 - B. False
9. One example of a social kind is:
- A. gold (the element AU)
 - B. water (the molecule H₂O)
 - C. human being
 - D. professor
10. A “categorical imperative” is one according to which, if one desires an end, then one is rationally required to bring about the means to that end
- A. True
 - B. False
11. Kant’s view construes animals as ends in themselves
- A. True
 - B. False
12. A relationally valuable good is one that is valuable only in connection to something else
- A. True
 - B. False

13. Utilitarianism considers an act right only if it maximizes pleasure & minimizes pain
- A. True
 - B. False
14. One feature of industrial agriculture is monoculture
- A. True
 - B. False
15. A necessary condition is:
- A. what is enough for something to be the case
 - B. what is sufficient for something to be the case
 - C. what is required for something to be the case
 - D. what is both required and enough for something to be the case

Short Essay (30 points)

Answer only **two** of the four

1. Explain the “argument from marginal cases”. What is a “marginal case”? What problem does the argument from marginal cases present?
2. Explain the difficulty in giving a precise definition of the concept of *food*. Make sure you (i) articulate what is required to give a definition of a concept; (ii) describe the reasons why there might be more than one way to define the concept of food
3. What is “moral hazard”? Why might the structure of our food industry present an instance of moral hazard?
4. What is the “basic argument” for vegetarianism? What are the limitations of this argument? How might one object to the argument?

