

1. Explain what food insecurity is. Explain the “principle of preventing bad occurrences”. How does Singer use this principle to argue for supporting the food insecure? What objections might we raise for this argument? Are any of these objections convincing? Defend your answer.

- Food Insecurity: :: a situation of limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways

1. Available: food is available in sufficient quantities & on a consistent basis
2. Accessible: people can regularly acquire adequate quantities of food through socially acceptable methods
3. Utilizable: consumed food has a positive nutritional impact on people

**The Principle of Preventing Bad Occurences:** if it is in our power to prevent something bad from happening, without thereby sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, we ought, morally, to do it. (Singer, 231)

PPBO is not affected by distance or numbers. We might worry that the principle is too demanding & erases distinction between moral requirements and supererogatory actions. One response would be to slightly weaken our interpretation of the principle so that we need not worry about ‘comparable’ sacrifice.

2. The interests of the food industry are misaligned with those of public health. Explain this misalignment. Does the structure of the industrial food system present an instance of “moral hazard”? Defend your answer.
  - Food industry generates profit only by either (i) lowering costs; (ii) increasing demand
  - Push to lower costs encourages features of IFS
  - Increasing demand requires either (i) increased processing of food; (ii) increased consumption Neither are obviously in the public health interest

**Moral Hazard** One party engages in “risky” actions at least in part due to the knowledge that some other party bears the cost of those risks. Typically arises when one or both of the parties possesses incomplete information about the other (“information asymmetry”).

- The actions of the IFS seem to hinge on information asymmetries and the placement of risk on consumer & gov in manner similar to the tobacco industry
3. “Local” agriculture privileges geographic and cultural locality when making food consumption and production choices. Describe at least **three** advantages & disadvantages of each “local” and “global” form of agriculture. Is one form of agriculture preferable to the other? Defend your answer.

- Local Advantages:
  - Reduced distance for transport of goods means lower environmental impact
  - Supports local economies
  - Promotes the continued existence of specific cultural practices or traditions
  - Promotes a connection to a particular locale or “sense of place”
  - Promotes or maintains a “sustainable community”
- Local Disadvantages:
  - Increased cost of food
  - Increased time required for production/consumption
  - Perhaps difficult to scale (i.e. maybe not all populations can be locavores)
  - Provincial
  - For many areas localism may result in a net decrease in the variety of available foods