

Eudaimonia Essay Questions

General Themes

- Eudaimonia as Contemplation (210603 Q9, 170608 Q1, 160603 Q12, 140610 Q11)
- Eudaimonia as Virtuous Action (140610 Q11, 130604 Q2)
- Eudaimonia as Political Life (170608 Q1, 150610 Q6)
- From Ethics to Politics (X.9) (220603 Q12, 190613 Q12)

220603 Q12

'Legislators should not seek to make citizens virtuous, but instead ensure that each citizen can lead a happy life, however they define happiness. Ethics is not a part of political science.' How would Aristotle respond? Can his views be defended?

210603 Q9

Chemists in Aristotle's school, the Lyceum, have invented a pink pill that produces an experience of uninterrupted intellectual pleasure in those who take it. Would Aristotle recommend that you take this pink pleasure pill?

200528 Q4

Can a bee be virtuous? Can it be happy?

190613 Q11

Why should we aim to become godlike? Why should we not wish for our friends to become gods? Is Aristotle's position coherent?

190613 Q12

What is political science, according to Aristotle? How does political science promote happiness?

180602 Q1

'It is true that everyone aims at happiness (eudaimonia), but to say this is entirely uninformative.' Is this an adequate characterization of Aristotle's view?

170608 Q1

If I have a choice between a life of study and a life of political virtue, would Aristotle advise me to go for the former? Is his position based on plausible arguments?

170608 Q2

Discuss whether Aristotle is right to think that the fortunes of my friends can affect me after I'm dead.

160603 Q12

Given that we are human beings, why should we strive to be god-like?

150610 Q6

Does Aristotle think engaging in politics is a necessary evil for the happy person?

140610 Q1

'If happiness is both complete without qualification and self-sufficient, then it must include all goods.' Discuss.

140610 Q11

Is Aristotle justified in his claim that the life of ethical virtue is less happy than the life of contemplation?

130604 Q2

'And so the human good proves to be activity of the soul in accord with virtue' (I.7, 1098a16-17). On Aristotle's view, then, does happiness consist in nothing other than acting virtuously?