

Basics of Ethics

Mid-Semester Examination

Monsoon 2025

Marks: 30

Time: 1.5 hours

Date: 22nd September, 2025

Instructions:

- Answer any 3 of the following 5 questions. Each question carries 10 marks.
- Each answer should be in about 300 - 400 words.
- Keep your answers precise and to the point.
- Marks are awarded based on the clarity, depth, and justification of your arguments, not merely word count.

1. What is Rule Consequentialism? How does it attempt to solve the problem of injustice that Act Utilitarianism faces?
2. Differentiate between hypothetical and categorical imperatives according to Kant. How does the Principle of Universalizability aim to ensure fairness in moral actions?
3. Outline the "Divine Perfection Argument" against Divine Command Theory. How does a modified theory (like Robert Adams's) attempt to avoid the problem of arbitrariness?
4. Explain J.L. Mackie's "Argument from Queerness." What are its two dimensions (metaphysical and epistemological), and what conclusion does Mackie draw from them?
5. What is hedonism? Explain major criticism against it, using the "Argument from Evil Pleasures" and the "Argument from False Happiness."