

Study Guide

There are 75 multiple choice questions in total

Logic and Reasoning: 10 Questions

- Valid and Soundness
 - o Valid argument is:
 - Truth preserving
 - If the premises are true, then the conclusion must be true.
 - Hypothetical, not actual truth, structure concerned.
 - Ex. of an invalid argument 1. Some Canadians love hockey 2. Gabe is Canadian 3. Gabe loves hockey. If it said all Canadians, then it would be valid, must be universally applied.
 - o Sound argument:
 - Truth – actual truth, not hypothetical
 - Premises are in fact true
 - Valid
- Axioms of logic
 - o Law of contradiction
 - it is impossible for both p and not p to be true, or symbolically $\sim(p \cdot \sim p)$,
 - o Law of excluded middle
 - either p or $\sim p$ must be true, there being no third or middle true proposition between them, or symbolically $p \vee \sim p$ (\vee =or)
 - o Principle of identity
 - p will always be itself, or $p = p$
- False dilemma/dichotomy
 - o a type of informal fallacy in which something is falsely claimed to be an "either/or" situation, when in fact there is at least one additional option. Ex. USA, take it or leave it.
- Reductio ad absurdum
 - o is a form of argument that attempts either to disprove a statement by showing it inevitably leads to a ridiculous, absurd, or impractical conclusion
- Modus Ponens (valid arguments)
 - o If P, then Q
 - o P
 - o Therefore, Q
- Modus Tollens (valid arguments)
 - o If P, then Q
 - o Not Q
 - o Therefore, not P
- Affirming the consequent (fallacy)
 - o If lemons are red (antecedent)
 - o Then they have colour (consequent)
 - o Therefore, lemons are red

- Denying the antecedent (fallacy)
 - o Lemons have a colour if they are red
 - o Not the case that lemons are red
 - o Therefore, lemons do not have a colour
- Strawman argument
 - o an informal fallacy based on giving the impression of refuting an opponent's argument, while actually refuting an argument that was not presented by that opponent. One who engages in this fallacy is said to be "attacking a straw man." Ex. Lets go to the movies today, Not today, You never want to have fun.
- Objective truth
 - o Idea that is true beyond all minds, ex. the existence of gravity
- Subjective truth
 - o Opinions, truth is dependent on an individual, ex. I love oranges
- Inter-subjective truth
 - o Truth that is not dependent on any particular mind but minds, shared between minds. Ex. Yellow is bright.
- Disjunctive syllogism (valid)
 - o A or B
 - o Not B
 - o Therefore, A

Cultural Relativism: Objections/rebuttals: 7 Questions

- Cultural relativism/ethical subjectivism
 - o CR is the idea that a person's beliefs, values, and practices should be understood based on that person's own culture, rather than be judged against the criteria of another.
 - o ES is the idea that ethics is not universally, culturally, or socially objective, and it depends on the individual agent's attitudes.
- Ted Bundy
 - o Ethical subjectivist, serial killer, didn't think morality existed, could do whatever he wanted to do without feeling guilty.
- Tolerance
 - o Putting up with something even though you dislike it, it is your choice to put up with it.
 - o You don't put up with differences because you have to, you do it because it is your choice.
- Intrinsic reasons
 - o You want to do something, comes from within
- Instrumental reasons
 - o You have to do something

Contract Theory and Hobbes, O/R: 6 Questions

- Contract theory

- We agree to cooperate because it is in our overall best nature (state of nature). If we only pursue our own means, then we end up in a state of war.
- Prisoners dilemma
 - We end up worse by pursuing our own ends.
 - If both prisoners cooperate you both get 1 year, if one cooperates and the other does not then one goes free and the other does 10 years.
 - Traffic example: if everyone pursues their own means then you and others end up worse off by forgoing your and their self-interests, traffic jams, everyone trying to go fast, lots of braking.
- Objections to contract theory
 - We only cooperate because it is in our self interest, we perceive others as threats that we must work with to develop said contract.
 - Rebuttal: For seniors and children (those who don't present a threat) we wouldn't help them under this theory.

Psychological Egoism, O/R: 7 CONSEQ

- Psychological egoism
 - Main claim: morality is a sham because it requires that ppl care about the interests of others, but human nature is selfish and human beings are incapable of caring about anyone other than themselves.
- Differences between self-interest, selfishness, pleasure
 - Ex. going to the dentist is not selfish, but it is in your self-interest.
 - Ex. doing drugs may be pleasurable, but it is not in your self interest
 - Selfishness - concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself: seeking or concentrating on one's own advantage without regard for others.
- Popper's falsifiability/verifiability criterion
 - a theory is genuinely scientific only if it is possible in principle to establish that it is false.
 - Every action can be reinterpreted according to psychological egoism
 - So, called strength of theory is also weakness. No way to tell if it is true, could be reinterpreting data, so that it comes out true.
 - Ex. horoscope
 - Theory becomes meaningless if you cannot prove or disprove

Ethical Egoism, objections and rebuttals: 3 CONSEQ

- Ethical egoism (consequentialist)
 - You ought to do something if it is in your self interest
 - Ex. I should burn down a building if it benefits me
 - Biting the bullet – accepting absurdities
 - Burning down building is unethical, “yeah, so what?”
 - Objection from Nagel:
 - Ethics is based on consistency and generality, and rationality, what if someone did that to you?
 - Rebuttal: I don't care about being consistent, or others

- Shantideva
 - o No differences in suffering. Morally arbitrary, things you can't control.

Utilitarianism, objections and rebuttals: 5 CONSEQ

- If a theory is concerned with a morality outcome, it is consequentialist. Consequences of an action and rules, moral outcome.
- The utilitarianism of John Stuart Mill and Jeremy Bentham is a well known example of consequentialism. By contrast, the deontological theories Immanuel Kant are non-consequentialist.
- Utilitarianism
 - o an action is good if it maximizes the greatest good for the greatest number of people
- Act vs. Rule
 - o Act – if the consequences are outweighed by the benefits, it is moral
 - Issue with this is Hiroshima, ended war but it wasn't moral, rape during war to end war faster
 - o Rule – act must be repeated and become universalized to be a good act. More group orientated.
 - o Justice objection to rule utilitarianism:
 - Example: a racially motivated murder occurred and now the well-being of the city is in jeopardy (2004). Riots are about to break out and could threaten the harmony of the city and result in a significant period of racial animosity and social disorder (2004). In order to ensure the well-being of society, the police chief must frame an innocent, neglected individual as fast as possible, have the person tried, convicted and executed (2004). Is there a morally correct thing to do in this scenario? Many would agree that this action would be abhorrent, however a utilitarian might say that if this action will produce the greatest amount of happiness in society then it is the correct action. In this scenario the principle of justice conflicts with the notion of utility, the innocent person being framed is the odd man out and as a result must suffer the consequences of an unjust trial.
 - Rebuttal: A utilitarian may counter this and say that sometimes the well-being of society should override any principle of justice.
- Experience Machine
 - o Not an objection of utilitarianism, but an objection of good being defined by pleasure – hedonism

Divine Command Theory, O/R: 3 NON-CON

- Something is good because it is what God says it is, morality is based on God's decisions. what is moral is determined by what God commands, and that for a person to be moral is to follow his commands.
- The Euthyphro problem
 - o Plato's dialogue, Socrates with Euthyphro

- Is what is moral commanded by God because it is moral? Or is it simply moral in virtue of being commanded by God?
- Either the good is independent of God's will, and therefore the Abrahamic conception of God is not omnipotent. God is constrained by morality.
- OR, it is contingent/arbitrary, and God is not all loving. He could've made morality anything. Is God bound by logic?
- Possible defenses to divine command theory:
 - From a Christian perspective, the very essence of God is goodness, we often try to rationalize God, but morality is God.
 - Doesn't work on non-believers and how do you know which gods are right?

Deontology and Kant, O/R: 11 (non-consequentialist theory)

- Deontology is the idea that morality of an action should be based on whether that action itself is right or wrong under a series of rules, rather than based on the consequences of the action.
- Categorical imperatives: commands you must follow, regardless of your desires. Moral obligations are derived from pure reason.
- Duty and reason
- Focuses on DUTIES
- 1. If your action can be universalized than it is right.
 - Ex. cheating student vs. cheating teacher example. (if you cheat the prof can cheat too).
 - Cheating isn't ethical because it cannot be universalized. If everyone stole, private property would cease to exist, cannot be universalized.
 - Treating like cases alike, nobody is special, and everyone should be equal > no arbitrary bias.
 - 2. Always treat a person as an end instead of a means. Use coffee mugs as a means, as a cup of coffee, don't lie to someone as a means to get something you want (an end)
- Kausika and Kantian ethics:
 - Kant says you can never lie, but sometimes you must as values compete over each other. Context matters.
 - Sometimes you must lie to be morally correct. Can be universalized, lying to save lives.
 - Kausika, Indian monk said we should always tell the truth.
- Richard Taylor's objection to Kant:
 - Kantian ethics are overly rationalistic
 - Not realistic, an overly-logistic man would be seen as better than a moral and compassionate man.
 - Charles Taylor adds to Richard and says, it is too narrow because morality is too complex.

Virtue Ethics, O/R: 4 NON

- Virtue ethics is the idea that we shouldn't ask what is simply right or wrong, but what kind of people we should be.
- Aristotle believes what makes a good person is to live well according to virtue. "Golden mean". Desire to be virtuous by nature. Golden mean is sweet spot between deficiency and excess. Courage is middle, between cowardice and recklessness.
- Strive for Eudaimonia, to live well, live life of reason and rationality, it is the ultimate goal. Human flourishing, pushing yourself. Keep getting better. Moderation is best.
- Theory focuses on CHARACTER
- Buddha
- Weakness of will.
 - o Richard Holton (1999), argues that weakness of the will involves revising one's resolutions too easily. Under this view, it is possible to act against one's better judgment (that is, be akratic), but without being weak-willed.
- Charles Taylor
 - o Argues we cannot understand humans without teleology, underlying reasoning. What is FROM what ought to be.

Natural Law Theory, O/R: 7 NON

- Natural Law Theory: If it does its job it is good. Ex. a knife is good because it can fulfill its functions. A broken knife is not good. Human morality comes from nature, everything in nature has a purpose. Any law that is good is moral.
- Hume's objection:
 - o You can't derive an ought from an is. Ex. survival instincts can be seen as good, but are they? To other ppl what you do to survive may be seen as immoral.
 - o There is a distinction between fact and value.
- Objection to Hume:
 - o Thick concepts such as being courageous, is a purely descriptive concept such as oxygen.
 - o Cannot so easily separate the descriptions who we are from the evaluative, the good beings like us. Our lives as natural beings determine the good for us.
- HLA Hart
 - o thinks classical natural law oversimplifies the relationship between law and morality, but still believes in the core of good sense in natural law.
 - o Lobster example, lobsters naturally moral?

Feminism: 6

- Feminism
 - o the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes.
 - o It is the struggle from male oppression and domination. LMAO
- Structural oppression
 - o The ways in which Systemic (or Structural) Oppression history, culture, ideology, public policies, institutional practices, and personal behaviors and beliefs interact to maintain a hierarchy – based on race, class, gender, sexuality, and/or other

group identities – that allows the privileges associated with the dominant group and the disadvantages associated with the oppressed, targeted, or marginalized group to endure and adapt over time. LOOOOOOOOOOOOL

- Intersectionality
 - o a concept often used in critical theories to describe the ways in which oppressive institutions (racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, classism, etc.) are interconnected and cannot be examined separately from one another. Oppression is complex and multiform. IM DEAD
- False consciousness
 - o Cannot see what is in your self-interest because of power relationships. Ex. women in religious cults who think women should not learn how to read because only their husbands do that.
- Carol Gilligan – feminist philosopher
 - o Ethics of care, also called care ethics, feminist philosophical perspective that uses a relational and context-bound approach toward morality and decision making. ... Critical of how caring is socially engendered, being assigned to women and consequently devalued.
 - o Believed women are more relationship orientated. Thought moral judgement development was biased towards men.
- Kohlberg/Piaget – moral development theory
 - o morality starts from the early childhood years and can be affected by several factors. Guys will be guys and girls will be girls. Believed men and women were justice orientated.
- Ran Gavrieli's Video
 - o Porn is bad because it shows women as objects, anger and violence are results of watching porn. Filmed prostitution, male domination, unrealistic expectations.

Compare/contrast/mixed: 6

- The Tuskegee Experiment: The study began in 1932, it was called the “Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male.”
The study became unethical in the 1940s when penicillin became the recommended drug for treatment of syphilis and researchers did not offer it to the subjects. Many died. Evidently, the rights of the research subjects were violated. The Tuskegee Study raised a host of ethical issues such as informed consent, racism, paternalism, unfair subject selection in research, maleficence, truth-telling and justice, among others. Relates to Kant's ethics.
- Dharma, purpose or goal. Dharma is a Hindu, Buddhist and yogic concept that refers to the idea of a law, or principle, governing the universe. For an individual to live out their dharma is for them to act in accordance with this law. In Buddhism, it is said that acting in this way is the path to enlightenment. In comparison to Aristotle's ethical character or golden mean. Keep getting better, new goals, continually.