



SUNY ORANGE

Final Exam Questions

Philosophy 220: Ethics

no I, you, or we

Learning Outcomes

- Your answers clearly demonstrate a comprehension of the rules of composition used in expository writing, including the use of evidence and logic.
- Your answers make clear, concise claims.
- Your answers' Position of Address uses the third person, the simple present tense and adheres to the basic rules of argument regarding fallacies.
- Your answers reflect proper planning, writing, editing and proof-reading. There is evident college-level control of vocabulary, sentence structures, grammar and compositional mechanics, and spelling.
- Your essay clearly demonstrates your comprehension of the formal elements of the ethics discourse, particularly the rules and attributes that define specific ethical perspectives (e.g., Kantian ethics always questions intentions).
- Your answers formulate specific arguments; they are analytical not 'personal.'

Requirements

Your work will be in proper MLA format, and your answers MUST be fully developed. They will definitively demonstrate a clear understanding of a variety of ethical approaches (i.e., the specific breadth of each ethical perspective) as well as the principles that guide the ethical arguments about animal rights. You can use a dictionary, a thesaurus and a writing manual. You can also use a bullet/point form outline that contains NO SENTENCES. Outlines with sentences will be removed. (sample bullets: 'proper reflection,' 'consequentialist'). You can use the textbook on Animal Rights.

Writing Concerns to Remember

- Write clearly
- Use the simple present tense (limit misuse of the "ing" progressive tenses) and the active voice.
- This is not an autobiography or a manifesto (no "you" or "we." Use the third person Position of address.
- Very limited use of "seems, maybe" or "all, every" claims.
- Present a clear argument / explanation.
- Avoid passive voice; rhetorical questions and hypothetical arguments
- Be specific, use concrete evidence
- Use appropriate formulations when you refer to the concepts (i.e., premise, example, fallacy, etc.)
- Carefully PROOFREAD.

The Questions

1. A farming village on the edge of a tropical forest. A young father discovers a young orphan orangutan. He brings it home so that his daughter will have a pet. She is overjoyed, and over the course of a few weeks bonds with the young orangutan. That is when Wyman, a local conservation worker, visits the village. When he discovers the orphan orangutan, he tells the father that he should take the orangutan to a rescue center where he will be cared for, and - one day - re-introduced to the wild.

Given that the conservation worker, Wyman, is a believer in animal rights, and is also a Humean, what are his ethical obligations, what actions should he take, and what information should he solicit?

2. Later, a village elder, Armand, intervenes and tells Wyan that removing the animal denies the religious value that the orphan orangutan has provided the village. Since the animal's rescue there's been much needed rain for their crops and several of their goats have produced healthy kids. Why does Wyan want to inflict harm on the village? At this point Wyan puts on his Social Contract thinking cap and explains to the elder what their separate obligations are in this situation. What is his explanation?
3. A terrible zoo in a rundown town. A few teenagers with nothing to do decide to annoy the old chimp at the zoo. At first, they throw food at the animal, but then they escalate and start to throw stones. That's when the chimp picks up a stone and hurls it at the face of one of his tormentors. He blinds Maklah in one eye. The boy's parents insist that the chimp be "put down." The Kantian zoo manager believes he knows the appropriate sequence of actions that the zoo should follow. Explain what actions should be taken and why they are advocated by the Kantian zoo manager.
4. Jeff, A Rule Utilitarian, is the manager of the meat and poultry section of the supermarket. Today, his boss asked that he give the prominent display space to the cheaply-priced factory chickens that have just arrived. However, Jeff believes he should continue to give the best display area to the locally grown, organically raised chickens. He needs to convince his boss that his current display and advocacy provides benefits to their customers and the community at large. What is his ethical argument?
5. For many generations Nanook and his family have lived by selling arctic fox pelts. In this rugged terrain, there are very few sources of income. He has always used leg-hold traps that cause a great deal of pain for the trapped animal. Large Cages are an expensive and bulky alternative. As a Rule-Utilitarian, you will argue that the government should provide cages at a subsidized cost so that leg traps can be eliminated.
6. There is a new drug that offers amazing hope for the treatment of a range of ovarian cancers. Given the biological traits shared by rabbit ovaries and human ovaries, and the great interest that has surged with news of the new drug, there's immense pressure to speed up testing. Many more tests are called for; and many more rabbits given cancer will be needed. As a Virtue ethicist Margaret Duvalier believes that her fellow scientists, those who are directly involved in this work, have abandoned their basic scientific virtues, especially justice. Explain her argument.
7. The aftermath of an attack by Animal Liberation activists, known as Fermare Green Hill, at the University of Milan: In addition to mixing up the animals and cage labels to ensure that ongoing experiments would be ruined, the activists also took the names of the experimenters from the cage labels, some of which they later published on their Facebook page. Michela Matteoli, a neurobiologist who works on autism and other disorders and lost most of her own research in the attack, says that she found some research students crying in the disrupted facility on Monday morning. "It will take three people at least a year to build up the colonies we had of mouse models of different psychiatric diseases," she says. On Sunday Italian media reported that around 60 scientists held their own demonstration in Milan to protest what they call the ignorance and bullying tactics of Fermare Green Hill. As a Humean how would you evaluate this situation and how would you mediate the conflict?
8. The township of Leshoro in South Africa suffers from a lack of funds that are desperately needed to replace the now decrepit school and to build a women's health clinic. To raise money, they have organized a trophy hunt of the big seven (Cape buffalo, lion, cheetah, elephant, leopard, rhino and crocodile.). They will be able to charge the highest of fees and raise a great deal of money. How does Jacko, a Rule Utilitarian and believer in animal rights, convince them that this is not an ethical way to raise money?

9. From a Kantian perspective, explain how Polyface farm carefully answers the concerns of many animal rights activists, but in some ways falls short of their ideals.