

**Final exam Phil 140**  
**12<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

Answer two questions only, one from each section. You cannot answer a question overlapping the topic of your final paper.

**SECTION I**

1. What, if anything, is wrong with idea that the right thing to do is the action with the best overall consequences for every one affected?
2. What is the Kantian universalization test? Does it entail that moral imperatives cannot have reasonable exceptions?
3. Why is the idea that some creatures (human or not) have moral rights an objection to contractualism?
4. Virtue Ethics offers some advantage over other ethical theories that focus on duty and right action. Explain how Virtue Ethic's advantage is also why it is incomplete as an ethical theory.

**SECTION II**

5. "It is wrong to kill an innocent human being. A fetus is an innocent human being. Therefore, it is wrong to kill a fetus." Assess this argument: is it sound? Which premise(s) need(s) defence for the conclusion to follow?
6. Is there a morally significant difference between killing and letting die? How, if at all, does it justify the distinction between active and passive euthanasia?
7. "The punishment should fit the crime". Is the principle of retribution sufficient to justify the death penalty as punishment for any kind of offence?
8. "We shall be ready to help only when help is urgent and when giving it is not very onerous to us". Given that there is *absolute poverty* in the world, and that we waste money on superfluous goods, does it follow that we should be ready to help the absolute poor?
9. "How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?" Can a defence of civil disobedience answer this question satisfactorily?

*Remember:*

I recommend half hour for each answer, but you can take less or more.

Read what is asked carefully, think of what is required. Plan your answer before starting to write it: make notes and assess what is important and essential, and what is redundant or irrelevant for your answer. Organize your ideas logically. Remember to say which question you are answering.

You are expected to develop an argument that clarifies the issues, recognizes distinct conclusions and premises, and contends with objections and arguments for both sides. Be clear and consistent in using the argumentative format. Display your knowledge. Be exact in writing.