

Mid-term exam Phil 140
20th April 2006

Answer two questions only.

1. How far is being moral a matter of being reasonable? (what is required by morality)
2. “Moral relativism cannot accommodate the possibility of moral progress within a society; therefore moral relativism is false.” Discuss (relativism)
3. “Moral claims are expressions of feeling.” Discuss (subjectivism)
4. “The right thing to do is what is commanded by God”. Discuss (morality and religion)
5. Is unselfishness possible? (psychological egoism)
6. *Should* one be motivated only by considerations of self-interest? (ethical egoism)
7. Could it ever be rational *not* to act in a way that does *maximise the good*? (utilitarianism)

Remember:

I recommend half hour for each answer, but you can take less time, twenty minutes should do. Plan your answer before starting to write it. Read what is asked carefully, think of what is required, 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.

In both the exams and the writing assignments, 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.