

Mock exam questions

The exam will assess whether you meet the 2 course goals:

- (A) Your understanding of the main ethical theories (lectures 2, 4, 5), and of theories of well-being (lecture 3) and the nature of morality (lecture 1).
- (B) Your ability to apply these theories to moral dilemmas, and resolve the latter in an intelligent way.

Types of questions you can expect:

- 1. Understanding ethical theories >course goal (A)
- 2. Contrasting them >course goal (A)
- 3. Applying these theories to cases >course goal (B)
- 4. Recognizing pieces of ethical reasoning >course goal (B)

The exam will consist of 32 questions (with 4 possible answers and 1 correct), and you will pass it (and the course) if you answer **20 questions** (or more) correctly. Hence, a guess correction of 8 points applies.

The questions will cover:

<i>Lectures</i>	<i>Material</i>
1. Ethics: what, why	Lecture 1; Textbook 1–3
2. Contractualism	Lecture 2; Textbook 5–6
3. Well-being	Lecture 3; Reiss, Nozick
4. Utilitarianism	Lecture 4; Textbook 7–8
5. Kantian Ethics	Lecture 5; Textbook 9–10

Note: the emphasis will be on concepts/topics addressed in the 5 lectures.

Unfortunately, we don't have more mock questions, since we're in the process of building a bank with good test questions, and this takes time.

The answers to the following 8 mock questions will be discussed in the class of 15/5, and will be posted on Canvas *after* this class.

Questions? Contact the TA Anastasia: a.khairova@student.vu.nl

Type 1

(Q1)

Which hypothetical world do we imagine when we apply the Formula of Universal Law?

- (A) A world where people make an exception of themselves.
- (B) A world where everyone acts like you.
- (C) A world where everyone has the same desires.
- (D) A world where moral rules hold universally.

(Q2)

In the course, we discussed the following public goods game:

You all get €10. I'll pass around an envelope and do an offer: "Any money that you'll put in the envelope will be collected. Then I'll double the given amount. Finally, I'll split the total among all of you."

Which lesson should *not* be drawn from this game?

- (A) I should close a deal with the others to donate.
- (B) I may donate the money if certain conditions are met.
- (C) I should keep the money regardless of what others do.
- (D) I may keep the money if others do so too.

Type 2

(Q3)

What is *not* a distinction between Utilitarianism and Kantian Ethics?

- (A) Kantian Ethics cares about universality, about not making an exception of oneself, while Utilitarianism denies that this is relevant.
- (B) Kantian Ethics evaluates the intentions on which one acts, while Utilitarianism evaluates the consequences of one's actions.
- (C) Kantian Ethics produces permissions and prohibitions, while Utilitarianism produces obligations and prohibitions.
- (D) Kantian Ethics is interested in people's consent, while Utilitarianism is interested in promoting their well-being, even without their consent.

(Q4)

Consider the following scenario:

Person A and person B have a discussion about privacy. A argues that privacy is good for her because she wants it. B argues that the position of A is unreasonable and that A has to give better arguments. B then argues that privacy is good for everyone.

Which of the following statements describes the discussion best?

- (A) A takes the position of Desire Satisfactionism, B takes the position of Utilitarianism.
- (B) A takes the position of Hedonism, B takes the position of Utilitarianism.
- (C) A takes the position of Desire Satisfactionism, B takes the position of Objective List Theory.
- (D) A takes the position of Ethical Subjectivism, B takes the position of Objective List Theory.

Type 3

(Q5)

Consider the following decision situation:

	I have covid 40%	I don't have covid 60%
I go to class	I learn something But infect someone	I learn something Don't infect anyone
I stay home	I don't learn Don't infect anyone	I don't learn Don't infect anyone

Suppose going to class yields 1 unit of well-being (for me), but infecting someone with covid costs 2 units of well-being (for that person).

Which of the following statements about this case is correct?

- (A) The expected value of going to class is -1 , and I should stay home, according to Utilitarianism.
- (B) The expected value of going to class is -1 , and I should go to class, according to Utilitarianism.
- (C) The expected value of going to class is 0.2 , and I should stay home, according to Utilitarianism.
- (D) The expected value of going to class is 0.2 , and I should go to class, according to Utilitarianism.

(Q6)

In the game described in (Q2), I should donate the money, according to the Formula of Universal Law. Why is that?

- (A) The intention "to maximize the money I receive, I'll keep the money" passes the Formula.
- (B) The intention "to maximize the money I receive, I'll donate the money" passes the Formula.
- (C) The intention "to maximize the money I receive, I'll keep the money" doesn't pass the Formula.
- (D) The intention "to maximize the money I receive, I'll donate the money" doesn't pass the Formula.

Note:

Applying all the theories from the course to this game (and, indeed, the Tragedy of the Commons, with the same structure) is a very good practice for the exam.

Type 4

(Q7)

Consider the following discussion:

Person A tells person B she found an advertisement trick that deceives people and makes them buy some useless but harmless product of hers. A argues that she will use all the money she makes for good, and fund important societal projects. B responds

that A should not do this because, even when the consequences will be great, it's still problematic to deceive people.

Which of the following statements describes the discussion best?

- (A) A's reasoning is in line with Utilitarianism rather than Objective List Theory.
- (B) A's reasoning is in line with Utilitarianism rather than Kantian Ethics.
- (C) B's reasoning is in line with Utilitarianism rather than Objective List Theory.
- (D) B's reasoning is in line with Utilitarianism rather than Kantian Ethics.

(Q8)

Imagine the discussion in (Q7) proceeds as follows:

A thinks for a moment and responds that she will inform everyone about how she will use the profit.

Which of the following statements describes A's position best?

- (A) A applies the Formula of Humanity because she informs everyone.
- (B) A applies the Formula of Humanity because she merely deceives and doesn't force people to buy her product.
- (C) A applies the Formula of Humanity because she uses the money for good and does care about other people.
- (D) A does not apply the Formula of Humanity because she does not care enough about people's consent to be used in this way.