

Phil 137
Fall 2008
Dana Nelkin

Midterm Study Questions

Please note: Some of the questions on the midterm will be taken from the following list, while others will not. These questions should help you in two ways: first, they should give you an idea of the kinds of questions that will be asked on the midterm, and, second, if you have mastered the material necessary to answer these questions and questions like them, then you should be in a great position to answer the questions that actually appear on the midterm. Also, please note that there will only be **one** substantial essay on the actual exam. Finally, please feel free to discuss these questions with me and with your fellow students. I will have extra office hours Thursday 12-1:30 in my office (HSS 8004) and regular ones Friday 12-2 at Café Roma in the Price Center.

I. MULTIPLE CHOICE

- (a) Which of the following does Frankfurt claim is true of the Jones4 case?
- (1) Jones4 can do otherwise.
 - (2) Jones4 is responsible for his action.
 - (3) Black is responsible for Jones4's action.
 - (4) Jones4 is manipulated.
 - (5) All of the above
 - (6) None of the above
- (b) Which of the following would both Frankfurt and Chisholm accept?
- (1) Acting freely requires the ability to do otherwise.
 - (2) Libertarianism
 - (3) The Self-Creation argument is unsound.
 - (4) Agent Causation
 - (5) All of the above
 - (6) None of the above
- (c) Which of the following are incompatibilists?
- (1) Chisholm
 - (2) Pereboom
 - (3) Kane
 - (4) All of the above
 - (5) None of the above
- (d) Which of the following does Smart say?
- (1) "We are responsible only for those actions which are the result of pure chance."
 - (2) "Agent causation provides the answer to all skeptical arguments."

- (3) “The upshot of the discussion is that we should be quite as ready to *grade* a person for his moral qualities as for his non-moral qualities, but we should stop *judging* him.”
- (4) All of the above
- (5) None of the above

II. SHORT ANSWER (please answer in one or two sentences.)

- (1) What is “revisionism,” according to Vargas?
- (2) What is “hard incompatibilism,” according to Pereboom?
- (3) What is libertarianism?
- (4) What is a Real Self view of freedom?
- (5) What is the principle of alternate possibilities?
- (6) What is an “influencability” view of moral responsibility?
- (7) What is transeunt causation, according to Chisholm?
- (8) What is leeway incompatibilism?
- (9) What is a contrastive explanation? Give one example.

III. MEDIUM ANSWER (please answer in a paragraph or two.)

- (1) Set out Pereboom’s 4-case argument.
- (2) Set out the Rock and a Hard Place argument.
- (3) Set out the main elements of Fischer’s compatibilist view of moral responsibility.
- (4) Explain how Kane answers the concern that indeterminism introduces freedom-undermining luck.
- (5) Explain Nagel’s reasons for thinking that the concept of free action is incoherent.

IV. ESSAY QUESTIONS

- (1) Set out the Self-Creation argument, and explain how one compatibilist and one libertarian would answer it. Evaluate their answers.
- (2) Explain how Pereboom claims we ought to revise our practices and emotional responses and what he believes would be lost and gained by doing so. Evaluate.
- (3) Set out the main elements of Vargas’ view of free will and assess.