

PHILOSOPHY 13

MIDTERM EXAM

FALL, 2000

No use of books or notes is permitted at any time during this exam.

Part I. Essay Question. This portion of the exam counts for 60 percent of your exam grade.

Time allowed: 30 minutes.

Answer **one** of the following two questions.

A. Utilitarianism has been criticized on the ground that in certain circumstances it would approve deliberately and knowingly bringing it about that an innocent person is placed on trial, convicted of a serious offense, and imprisoned for the rest of his life for a crime he did not commit. In different ways R.M. Hare in his essay “The Archangel and the Prole” and J. S. Mill in chapter 5 of *Utilitarianism* indicate lines of response to this objection. In each case, how exactly would the response address the objection? Is either line of response successful in meeting the objection? Why or why not?

OR

B. Suppose that someone lives in such a way that over the course of her life her most important desires are satisfied and the major life aims she sets for herself are achieved. According to J. S. Mill’s conception of happiness, would this person have lived a happy life? According to Robert Adam’s conception of human good, would this person have lived a good life (that is, a life that is good for the one who lives it—the issue is not whether it is good for other people)? In other words, is there anything more to living well or living happily beyond desire satisfaction? Defend or attack Mill’s or Adams’s view (pick one) on this issue.

Part II. Short-Answer questions. This portion of the exam counts for 40 percent of your exam grade.

Time allowed: 20 minutes.

Answer **exactly three** of the following five questions. (If you need more space, use the back sides of these sheets.)

1. In chapter 4 of *Utilitarianism* J. S. Mill develops an argument to the conclusion that happiness, and happiness alone, is desirable as an end. State the argument.

2. If one person urges that capital punishment is wrong and another person disagrees, can such moral disagreement ever be rationally resolved according to Jonathan Glover? If so, how so? If not, why not? (He discusses this issue in “The Scope and Limits of Moral Argument.”)

3. In "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" Peter Singer proposes a principle to settle the moral question, the extent to which people in economically advanced countries have a duty to contribute to the prevention of deaths from famine and natural disasters around the globe. State the principle and explain the implications Singer draws from it.

4. Explain the distinction between act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism. What is J. J. C. Smart's criticism of rule utilitarianism (he calls it "restricted utilitarianism")?

5. What are the "Two Concepts of Rules" as explained by John Rawls in his essay with that title? Explain how Rawls thinks this distinction makes a difference to the moral justifiability of utilitarianism.