

Study Guide for Exam #3 (Final)
Freedom & Ethics

For Exam #3 (Final) you will be expected to know all the readings assigned on Ethics and Freedom and be able to discuss intelligently the issues, arguments and criticisms involved in lecture and class discussion. To prepare for this exam, review all the points discussed in the lectures and outlined in class. Below is a list of some of the concepts worth highlighting for a more detailed review. A [Bluebook](#) is required for the exam.

FREEDOM

Authors: Holbach, Stace, Chisholm, Pereboom

Freewill (arguments)

Hard Determinism

 Universal Causation

 Continuity of Nature

 Illusion of Freewill

Indeterminism

The Dilemma of Determinism

Soft Determinism

 Alternate Possibilities

 Conceptual: Verbal Disputes

 Internal vs. External Causes

Libertarianism (Agent Causal Theory)

 Immanent and Transeunt causation

Determinism, Responsibility (& Punishment)

ETHICS

Authors: Benedict, Rachels, Quinn, Mill, Rawls

Ethics & Purposes of Morality

Descriptive vs. Prescriptive claims

(Naturalistic Fallacy)

Moral Relativism

 Benedict's Argument

 Cultural Differences Argument & Criticisms

Moral Objectivism

Divine Command Theory (arguments)

 Moral Functions of God

 Skepticism, Euthyphro, Karamazov, Motivation

 Moral Nihilism

 Immoralities of the Patriarchs

Utilitarianism

 (Rule and Act Utilitarianism)

 Principle of Utility

 (Consequentialism vs Deontology)

 Justice and Integrity Objections

Social Contract Theory

 State of Nature

 Original Position

 Veil of Ignorance

 Principle of Equal Liberty

 Principle of Just Inequalities

 Rationality and Just Desserts Criticisms

Essay Questions: The following are six possible questions that will be asked on Exam #3. Of these six, three will be picked for the exam; and of those three you will have to write on two of your choice. Each question should be answered as completely and thoroughly given the limits of space and time for the exam. Your goal should be to demonstrate to me that you have a competent grasp of exactly what the issue is, what the main concepts are, and the various positions for and against the variety of views discussed in each question.

- A. Dilemma of Determinism: What reasons do we have for thinking our actions are free? How does (hard) determinism challenge those reasons? Is indeterminism a solution to this problem?
- B. Soft Determinism: What is soft determinism and how does it attempt to show our actions are free? What single objection is most challenging for soft determinism? Explain whether you think the problem of freewill is merely a "verbal dispute."
- C. Libertarianism and Agency: What is the Agent Causal Theory and how is it supposed to be a solution to the challenge of determinism? Raise at least one serious problem with this theory? How might a proponent of the Agent Causal Theory defend against this objection? Do you think it is an adequate answer?
- D. Moral Relativism. What is moral relativism and what is the argument supporting this view? Explain some of the problems facing this position. In the end, do you think morality is relative or are there universal/objective moral principles that are not relative?
- E. God and Morality. Divine Command Theory suggests that morality requires some divine (God) authority in order to ensure the truth of moral principles and as a motive for being moral. What is Divine Command Theory is and how is it supposed to provide an objective basis for morality? Describe the challenge to DCT raised by the Euthyphro objection. Do you think it is possible to have morality without God (or a divine entity)?
- F. Utilitarianism: What is utilitarianism is and how is it supposed to provide an objective grounding for morality? Raise one serious problem for utilitarianism; is that objection fatal for utilitarianism? Do you think utilitarianism is a best moral theory than social contract theory?