

philosophy 164: medical ethics
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study guide for exam 1:

1. What does it mean to say that an argument is valid? What does it mean to say that an argument is sound? Give an example of a valid argument and state the form that it is in.
2. What three components make up many utilitarian theories? Briefly describe each of these components and how they fit together.
3. Give a formulation of act utilitarianism. Explain. Your explanation should include definitions of all the relevant technical terms. PEE the collective action objection to AU.
4. Briefly explain how rule utilitarianism is supposed to be an improvement on act utilitarianism? Do you agree? If so, explain why. If not, explain why not.
4. What is the principle of utility? Explain. PEE the normative irrelevance of justice objection.
5. What is the difference between a teleological and a deontological ethical theory?
6. Give a formulation of Kant's ethical theory. Explain it. Your explanation should include definitions of all the relevant technical terms. PEE the (revised) inconsistent maxims objection to CI.
7. State Ross' theory and briefly explain how it is supposed to work. Make sure to include some discussion of Ross' motivation for the theory. Do you think it follows from Ross' theory that we cannot have moral disagreements? Explain yourself.
8. Describe the original position, and how it is supposed to work. In giving your answer, make sure to briefly summarize the principles of justice that are supposed to come out of the original position. Do you think that Rawls' ideas here are plausible? Say why.
9. Explain the difference between the principle of nonmaleficence and the principle of beneficence. Use examples. Do we need both? Do we have a moral responsibility to be nice to each other? Do doctors? Explain your answers.
10. What is the principle of autonomy? Why is such a principle considered important as a principle of justice? Must there be restrictions placed on the principle of autonomy? In your answer, be sure to include a discussion of at least two principles which place restrictions on autonomy, how they are supposed to work, and whether you think they are plausible restrictions.
11. PEE the Dr. Hacker objection to VE.