

Final Exam Study Guide

The following are questions that might help to focus your studying this weekend. After taking this course, you should be able to plausibly answer each of these questions. The final exam will be a mix of short and long essay questions, most of which will resemble the questions on this sheet. I also recommend using the daily handouts as guides in your studying.

1. Explain why foundational theories that take rules as their primary focus of evaluation must include a theory of embeddedness. Explain the difference between idealized and realistic embeddedness conditions, and how the choice of embeddedness conditions can help to determine which normative factors there are.
2. Explain the collapse objection to foundational theories that take rules as their primary focus of evaluation. (Make sure to explain what a rule-focused foundational theory is.) Is this a good objection? Explain.
3. Explain the rule worship objection to foundational theories that take rules as their primary focus of evaluation. Is this a good objection?
4. Explain satisficing foundational teleological theories, making sure to distinguish them from maximizing foundational teleological theories. Critically assess whether satisficing theories are coherent.
5. Briefly describe hypothetical contract theory, making clear how this kind of theory differs from actual contract theory. Critically assess whether there is any reason to take a hypothetical contract seriously. In other words, do *actual* people have any reason to respect the outcome of a *hypothetical* contract?
6. Briefly describe Roderick Firth's Ideal Observer Theory. Is this theory vulnerable to some version of the Euthyphro Objection? Explain. (Make sure to describe the Euthyphro Objection.)
7. Explain one of Sarah Buss's arguments for the claim that being manipulated or deceived is compatible with (autonomously) governing oneself. Make sure to explain what Buss means by 'autonomy,' and why her conclusion shows that certain autonomy-based Reflection Theories are false. Is her argument sound? Explain.
8. Explain the difference between categorical pluralism and multilayered pluralism. Give an example of each type of pluralism.
9. Does Rawls's contractualism generate factoral consequentialism?
10. Explain Kamm's Options Paradox. How should we solve this paradox? Explain.
11. Explain Thomson's reasoning for why it appears to be morally wrong to 'turn the trolley,' and thereby kill one innocent person, in order to save five lives.