

# Study Questions and Topics for the Midterm

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There are many on-line resources that may be of help to you in studying for the mid term. I recommend in particular, the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Go to Google, type

sep

and then do a search.

## Part I

### Questions based on class material

1. Throughout history people have proposed that there are morally relevant differences between humans and non-human animals.
  - (a) List some of the major differences that have been proposed.
  - (b) State and explain the *Argument from Marginal Cases (AMC)* and carefully explain how one might use the *Argument from Marginal Cases (AMC)* to show that there are no morally relevant differences between human and non-human animals.
2. What is
  - (a) the *Principle of Desert*
  - (b) the moral view/theory called *Perfectionism*.
  - (c) How does the *Principle of Desert* challenge *Perfectionism*?
3. Employing the *Principle of Desert*, explain how one can argue — without using the *Argument from Marginal Cases* — that there are no morally relevant differences between human and non-human animals.

4. Explain the distinction between *Consequentialist* and *Deontological* Moral Theories.
5. Explain the distinction between hypothetical and categorical oughts.
6. What is Kant's answer to the question: How are categorical oughts possible?
7. State Kant's *Categorical Imperative*.
8. Explain what is meant by saying that the *Categorical Imperative* summarizes a procedure for deciding whether an act is morally permissible or impermissible.
9. Explain and criticize Kant's argument for why we should never lie.
10. State Kant's second *Categorical Imperative*.
11. Explain Kant's distinction between *instrumental* and *inherent* value. What are the implications of this distinction for non-human animals in Kant's moral philosophy?
12. What does Hobbes mean by a *State of Nature*?
13. Discuss the four facts of why the *State of Nature* is intolerable.
14. What according to Hobbes are the required conditions in order to escape, or not to fall into, the *State of Nature*?
15. What is the *Social Contract Conception (Theory) of Morality*.
16. Briefly outline the so-called *Prisoner's Dilemma*.
17. Describe/explain the solution to the Prisoner's Dilemma.
18. State in general terms what a Prisoner Dilemma type situation is.
19. Discuss the relationship between the *Social Contract Theory of Morality* and the *Prisoner's Dilemma*.
20. State the definitions of *direct rights (duties)* and *indirect rights (duties)*. Explain this distinction by way of an example.
21. Explain why traditional *Contractarianism* gives only *indirect rights* to non-human animals.
22. Describe/explain Rawl's notions of *Original Position*, *Veil of Ignorance* and *Unencumbered Self*.
23. Explain how one might apply the *Principle of Desert* to Rawls' *Original Position* in order to show that non-human animals have *direct rights* (and that correspondingly, humans have *direct duties* toward non-human animals) even though non-human animals lack the level of rationality required for participating as contractors in drawing up the *Social Contract of Morality*.

## Part II

### Questions based on assigned readings

1. Explain Peter Singer's *principle of equal consideration of interests*, and then describe how he uses this principle to guide our relationships with non-human animals.
2. Select what you consider to be the key points in Part I of *The Ethics of What We Eat* and provide a coherent and informative summary.
3. Select what you consider to be the key points in Part II of *The Ethics of What We Eat* and provide a coherent and informative summary.
4. Select what you consider to be the key points in Part III of *The Ethics of What We Eat* and provide a coherent and informative summary.
5. Select what you consider to be the key points in "On the Question of Personhood beyond *Homo sapiens*", by David DeGrazia, in *In Defense of Animals*, and provide a coherent and informative summary.
6. Select what you consider to be the key points in "Speciesism in the Laboratory", by Richard D. Ryder, in *In Defense of Animals*, and provide a coherent and informative summary.
7. Select what you consider to be the key points in "Against Zoos", by Dale Jamieson, in *In Defense of Animals*, and provide a coherent and informative summary.