

PHILOSOPHY 210: ETHICS

Final Examination: Monday, January 29, 1996

8:00 a.m. in 101 Nicely

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

DR. WADDAH N. NASR

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer each of the following three questions. Please remember that while it will be to your advantage to provide as much relevant information as possible, yet it will not be to your advantage to produce information without showing how it contributes to answering the question you are dealing with. Budget your time wisely: you have only two hours.

1. *"Ross and other Kantians have argued that making moral rules into prima facie rules rather than the absolute rules demanded by Kant is a step in the right direction."*

Write an essay in which you explain and discuss the above statement.

2. There are two competing, and seemingly different, conceptions of morality. One conception views morality as based on principles and the evaluation of actions; the other conception views morality as based on virtues and the evaluation of character.

Explain, clearly and in detail, how these two conceptions of morality differ one from the other. Which of these two conceptions do you find more acceptable? Defend your answer.

3. Choose only two of the following three philosophers: Kant, Mill, and Aristotle. Imagine, for each of the two philosophers that you have chosen, that he is a member of the Supreme Court of Newgarth. Based on your knowledge of his moral philosophy, present, clearly and in detail, the opinion that Judge Kant, Judge Mill, or Judge Aristotle would give with respect to the petition of error that was brought before the Court by the defendants in the case of the Speluncean Explorers. Had you been a member of this Court, what opinion would you have given? Defend your answer.

PLEASE RETURN THE QUESTION SHEETS WITH YOUR ANSWERS