

Candidate 3 evidence

3. (a) What is the purpose of the hedonic calculus?

2

The hedonic calculus measure a numerical value of pleasure of an action. It quantifies the happiness an action produces and allows us to choose the action that brings the greatest good for the most people.

(b) Explain two problems with using the hedonic calculus.

4

The hedonic calculus is too long to use for every scenario, you need to be able to act fast in important scenarios, to stop and deliberate contemplate an action's ^{the} consequences could end up worse. For example if someone falls on the road when a car is coming there is not enough time to think. One other problem is that sometimes the act that produces the most pleasure isn't praiseworthy morally so what should you do. eg abortion, it is wrong to take a life but the mother may have extreme pleasure in ridding the baby.

3. (continued)

- (c) According to Mill, what is the difference between higher and lower pleasures?
You may give examples to support your answer.

4

~~Higher~~ According to Mill
higher pleasures are that
which on self improving and
for cultivated minds like
music, art and literature,
while lower pleasures are
that of the body, which
we share with animals
like eating, drinking
and sex.

3. (continued)

(d) Read the scenario below and answer the questions that follow.

David gets a lot of pleasure from playing games on his phone, even though he knows they are totally pointless. His parents are unhappy that he is wasting so much time and want him to focus on his other hobbies, such as running and playing the drums.

(i) Use two factors of the hedonic calculus to show why Bentham would agree with David's parents.

4

Intensity
Duration
Certainty
Propinquity
Fecundity
Purity
Extent

Our two maxims are:

Maxim 1 ~~is~~ focus on other hobbies.

Maxim 2 continue playing games on the phone.

From the hedonic calculus I can use ~~Propinquity~~ intensity. Maxim one has ^{intense} ~~great~~ amount of pleasure as it would make David's parents happy and he would enjoy it too as they are his hobbies.

Maxim 2 would produce mild pleasure as he enjoys playing ~~these~~ games but it makes his parents unhappy.

I can also use Certainty. Maxim 1 is certain to make

his parents happy and possibly David. Maxim 2 is only certain to make David happy it is certain to make his parents unhappy.

3. (d) (continued)

(if) Explain why Mill would agree with David's parents.

2

Mill would agree with ~~the~~
David's parents because
choosing to focus on other
hobbies produces the
~~the~~ greatest happiness for
the greatest number of people
it is also certain to make
a larger number of people happy
compared to playing games which
only makes David happy.

3. (continued)

(e) Read the scenario below and answer the question that follows.

David tells his mum he is going for a run. When he gets back, he tells his mum he ran 5 kilometres. In fact, he was sitting in the park playing games on his phone.

You have studied another moral theory. What would followers of your other moral theory think about David's actions in the above scenario? You must refer to the scenario in your answer.

In your answer you should:

- describe the key features of your other moral theory
- explain why followers of your other moral theory would not approve of David's decision to act in this way.

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Kantianism is a deontological moral theory, ~~it is~~ the moral worth of an action is based on duties and it focuses on the intentions of an act, not the consequences. Kantians believe it is only morally praise worthy to act out of duty not inclination. Kantians would not approve of David's decision because we have a perfect duty not to lie. ~~we can also~~ I can also work this by
 I deciding maxims
 Maxim 1 - lie to parents
 Maxim 2 - tell truth to parents
 2. then test these maxims through the categorical imperatives

3. (e) (continued)

First the universalisability formulation.

Maxim 1 always lie to parents this is a contradiction in conception as it goes against duty.

Maxim 2 tell the truth, this is the morally correct thing to do.

Second the end in itself formulation.

Maxim 1 treats David's parents as a means to an end not an end in themselves he is lying to get what he wants.

Maxim 2 treats David's parents as an end in themselves so it is the morally correct thing to do.

Lastly kingdom of ends formulation.

Maxim 1 diminishes our kingdom

whereas Maxim 2 enhances

the kingdom. In conclusion

Maxim 2 is the morally correct thing to do it becomes a part of our moral law and becomes a categorical imperative.

3. (continued)

(f) Explain two criticisms of your other moral theory.

4

One criticism of Kantianism is that isn't there other morally praiseworthy motives other than duty like love compassion and kindness. Surely ~~it~~ there is something wrong with a father who only plays with his kids out of duty and not love. One other criticism is ~~the~~ conflict of duties, then we have a moral dilemma eg ~~Truth keeping and Truth telling and promise keeping~~ what duty should you keep? ~~like in the enquiring murderer in this~~ [END OF QUESTION PAPER]

~~Scenario you have a duty to not to~~

For example your friend is stealing but you promised not to tell what should you do?