

## Item 1

## Ethics Exam.

When answering your questions, take your time to read them carefully, and to plan your answer before writing.

Keep in mind the word count for each question. The exam is closed-book and should take up to 120 minutes to conclude.

Good luck!

### Part 1. Ethical concepts (6/20)

What is the main difference between *eudaimonia* in the Aristotelian tradition and “happiness” in the Utilitarian tradition?

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Briefly explain the differences between Augustine’s conception of “free-will” and modern ones.

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How did John Stuart Mill revise Jeremy Bentham’s Utilitarianism?

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Compare Hobbes’ state of war and Locke’s state of nature.

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## Item 2

**Part 2. Essay question (6/20)**

Choose **one of the questions we discussed in class (see list below)** in our group presentations - keep in mind that you **cannot** choose the question you and your group worked on during the semester.

Write a small essay of 700 words where you **justify your position**, using the authors' discussed in class, insights from class discussion, as well as any other examples you find relevant.

- Question #1: Are humans naturally evil?
- Question #2: Are there moral absolutes?
- Question #3: Is there a conflict between self-interested and altruistic motives?
- Question #4: Is there a claim for equal distribution of benefits and burdens?
- Question #5: Should companies make compromises on economic profitability to satisfy their stakeholders?

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## Item 3

**Part 3. Applied Ethics (8/20)**

For part 3, we ask you to imagine you are now working at a big consultancy firm - CorporateStuff Inc.

Imagine you have been working at CorporateStuff Inc. for the past 10 years. You are a devoted worker that has managed to be promoted 3 times. You have increased responsibilities as one of the key financial officers in the company. You like your job, and you also need it to continue to receive the necessary income to sustain your monthly expenses, but also to achieve your life goals.

Imagine now that on a rainy day, the Chief Financial Office comes up to you and tell us you the following:

*You know [YOUR NAME] we have been struggling... the numbers you sent me are not looking great. I believe this is just a small bump in the road. Things will be better. But if investors see our numbers... oh boy... this can become very bad. We cannot afford to get their distrust now...*

At this point you are concerned. You ask what you can do to help. He tells you:

*I believe we need to work the numbers out. Are you sure you got the numbers right? I think you did not... Maybe you could re-check our sales? It is really important that you get your job right.*

Once he leaves, you realize he is asking you to rig the company's numbers. Later on you find out that he wants you to move \$400 million from a reserve account and record it as "income" in the company's public financial reports, so that the company's earnings can look better. You also are aware that if the company fails to draw the trust from investors, budget cuts will be enforced, meaning that a collective lay-off will most likely take place.

**Now it's time for a decision. What would you do in this situation?**

In your answer, briefly describe and explain the ethical aspects and problems that may be at stake in this situation. Your answer should include the use of meaningful ethical concepts such as, virtue, duty, utility, eudaimonia, pleasure, consequentialism/consequentialist, capability(ies), justice, preference, or any other relevant ones.

Your answer should have a maximum of 1000 words. You will not be assessed according to the position you choose. Only the following will be considered:

- analytical capacity - being able to recognize the ethical aspects and implications of the situation and decision.
- clarity and rigour of the concepts and explanations.
- validity and strength of arguments.

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