

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MUID \_\_\_\_\_

## Sample Examination

(For a given class, I may vary the number of items in part I and the relative points per item. In part II, I may vary the number of questions you should answer and the total number of questions given.)

Make certain to define all critical terms and to give reasons for what you assert or attribute to others. Use the space provided for your answers. If needed, use the back of the page.

I. Please answer all of the questions in this part at \_\_\_\_\_ points each. Part I is worth 45 points.

- 1) Define the following terms at 1 points each:
  - a) divine law (Aquinas)
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) happiness (Aristotle)
  - d) ethical reductionism (Louden)
  - e) global feminism
- 2) This statement must be true: if moral standards are invented, then they are merely the expressions of personal preferences. True or False. Why?
- 3) Briefly explain the chief difference between a consequentialist and a virtue ethics.
- 4) According to Aquinas, whatever we know through divine law can be known through natural law. T/F? Why?
- 5) Both Mary Wollstonecroft and John Stuart Mill believed that the virtues typically associated with women perpetuated the oppression of women. Why?

- 6) Both global and socialist feminists would agree that the principal question for ethics is “how should we treat people in a caring manner?” T/F? Why?
- 7) According to Louden, the principal question of teleological ethics is what kind of person should we become. T/F. Why?
- 8) This statement must be true: since the ethical egoist tells us that we should always be selfish, the ethical egoist tells us that we can hurt other people whenever we want. T/F? Why?
- 9) In his analysis of Martin Luther King’s position, William Jones disagrees with King and Ghandi that one can successfully appeal to the consciences of oppressors in a racist society. T/F Why?
- 10) If all moral patients are moral agents, then human fetuses are not moral patients. True or False. Why?

Please answer four and only four of the following essay question at 15 points each. Make certain to define all critical terms and to give reasons for what you assert or attribute to others.

- 1) Why does Kant think that all utilitarian ethics results in moral subjectivism? Why does Kant insist that moral commands be expressed in categorical imperatives which hold absolutely and admit of no exceptions?

2) Carefully compare and contrast how (a) a cultural/ethical relativist and (b) a proponent of contextual (relational) moral standards would determine whether a given act is right or wrong? To what extent might both claim that their framework provides some universal standards for morality?

3) According to Aristotle, happiness is virtuous activity in conformity with reason. Carefully explain why he adopts this view in light of his conception of happiness as the final end of human activity. Exactly what does Aristotle mean by “virtuous activity?”

- 4) According to Rosmarie Tong, all feminist approaches to ethics ask questions about *power* – that is, about domination and subordination – even before they ask questions about good and evil or care and justice. How does she defend this view? Briefly compare and contrast **two** of the following feminist approaches to ethics: liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, radical feminism, and multicultural feminism.
- 5) Pick two of the following: Mao Tse-Tung, Malcom X, Martin Luther King. Carefully compare and contrast their views regarding whether or not oppressed people are justified in using violence to combat oppression. Make certain the you give the reasons each uses to support his position.

- 6) Why does Louden think that the utilitarian, deontological and virtue ethics are “reductionist” in nature? What specifically does he believe to be a principal limitation of virtue ethics vis a vis our ability to make decisions in particular moral situations.
- 7) Write an essay in which you do the following: distinguish briefly between sex and gender characteristics and then, drawing upon the readings from class, carefully present an argument for or against this claim: there are natural differences in morality for men and women.