

Self-study

You must answer one question from Part I and one question from Part II.

Part I

Choose question 1 or 2. Both sub-questions (a and b) must be answered

1. Aristotle has a teleological worldview.

a) Explain this view, and in particular the concepts of form and substance.

b) How does Aristotle's teleological world view emerge in his ethics, i.e., in his view of happiness and how we can achieve the good life?

Or

2. Knowledge and certainty

a) What is knowledge, according to Wikforss?

b) In light of your account in a), is it possible to obtain knowledge that is absolutely certain, e.g., in mathematics? Discuss with reference to at least one other text from the curriculum (e.g., Descartes, Kant, Einstein)

Part II

Choose question 3 or 4. Both sub-questions (a and b) must be answered.

3. What does it mean to live a happy life?

a) Give an account of two different views on what it means to live a happy life which are represented in the syllabus (for example Aristotle, Mill, Benatar).

b) In light of the above theories, is a happy life difficult to achieve? Give reasons for your answer.

Or

4. In the first chapter of *Utilitarianism*, Mill claims that when Kant tries to derive actual moral duties from the categorical imperative, he fails to show "that there would be any contradiction, any logical (not to say physical) impossibility, in the adoption by all rational beings of the most outrageously immoral rules of conduct. All he shows is that the *consequences* of their universal adoption would be such as no one would choose to incur." (pp. 402–403)

(a) Explain how Kant believes that one can use the categorical imperative to derive moral duties.

(b) Explain why Mill thinks Kant fails in this regard and discuss whether Mill's criticism is fair.