



Code No - 00051502

Solution to papers of Fyba set 1

Q 1

a) Explain Hedonistic Egoism of Epicurus.

Answer – Epicurus taught that the main aim of all our actions is to attain pleasure for oneself

Which means tranquility. This can be acquired by giving up fear of god and death.

1. For Epicurus, happiness was the complete absence of bodily and especially mental pains.
2. This includes fear of the Gods and desires for anything other than the bare necessities of life.
3. Epicurus would argue, our desires will eventually outstrip our means and interfere with our ability to live tranquil, happy lives.
4. Epicureanism is generally egoistic, in that it encourages everyone to pursue happiness for themselves.

b) Bring out the main features of Psychological Egoism of Thomas Hobbes.

Answer -

- Hobbes' moral philosophy-
- Evaluating objects and actions as good or evil depends on desires and aversions.
- Nothing is intrinsically good or bad.
- Whatever man desires is good for him- whatever he hates is bad.
- Good and bad are relative to the individual and always changing.
- This relativity changes with the establishment of commonwealth through social contract.

1. His moral thoughts is difficult to remove from his political thoughts.
2. Ethics is concerned with human nature and Political Philosophy.
3. Human judgement is unreliable and needs to be guided by science.
4. Our judgement becomes distorted by self interest.
5. We easily get tempted in knowing the world.
6. He tries to show the power of religion and political authority.
7. Life under authority is the best.

2

c) How does Ayn Rand justify Ethical Egoism? Discuss.

Answer –

1. The first step to assert man's right to moral existence is recognised his need of a moral code.
2. The purpose of morality is to defend man's proper values and interest that concern with his own interest.
3. The objectivist ethics hold that the actor must always be beneficiary of his action.
4. Man's self interest cannot be determined by blind desires.
5. What particular code of values should man accept?
6. It is only an ultimate goal, an end in itself that makes the existence of values possible.

Q 2 a) Discuss David Hume's views on origin and nature of morality.

Answer –

A) Ethics of Altruism of David Hume:

1. The most obvious basis for opposing psychological egoism in our common sense idea that human beings have a certain natural sympathy for one another.
2. By nature human beings are disposed to care about others to the point of sacrificing some of our happiness.
3. Moral sentiments need to be reinforced by circumstances and training which encourages actions which develops generous attitudes and habits.
4. The social virtues of humanity and benevolence exert their influence immediately by a direct tendency or instinct.) D

b) Bring out the arguments of Mill to support Utilitarianism.

Answer- argument for ethical hedonism- object is visible----

Argument for utilitarianism- A's happiness is good to A-----

1. Mill's ethical theory hedonistic Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialism.
2. Permissibility of action is determined by examining their outcomes.
3. An action is permissible only if the consequences of that action are good as those of any other action available to the agent.

03

c) Explain the three Maxims of Kant's categorical imperative.

Answer— Principle of Universality, Humanity as an end in itself, Kingdom of ends.

1. Immanuel Kant's contribution to the concept of duty is unique.
2. Famous dictum duty for duty's sake.
3. Reason demands that man should not act on the basis of personal likes and dislikes.
4. Moral law is absolute.
5. Good will is unconditionally good.
6. There are 3 postulates of morality: They are freedom, immortality and God.

Q 3a) Describe in brief ethics of St. Augustine.

Answer

1. The ideal of all human conduct is mystical ideal. The mind's union with God.
2. Supreme virtue is the love of God and regards temperance, fortitude and wisdom as virtues.
3. Both rich and poor are capable of salvation; worldly possession is hindrance to the progress of the soul.
4. Augustine discusses absolute perfection and relative perfection.
5. The highest ideal for him is the life of renunciation and asceticism.

b) Comment on Carol Gilligan's views on ethics of care.

Answer -----

1. Carol Gilligan has used the word 'care' to identify her voice because it points out to the responsibility to discover the real trouble of the world.
2. Under the ethics of care women feel guilty if they feel that they have hurt somebody.
3. Both sexes have the capacity to see ethical issues from different perspectives.
4. Carol Gilligan has a common question to women as to how they would describe themselves.
5. The general difference in identity are grounded in early childhood.
6. Care is the ultimate responsibility of adolescents (usually females) who see themselves as link to others.

04

c) Explain the concepts of freedom and responsibility in Sartre's existentialist ethics.

Answer –

1. J.P. Sartre is an existential philosopher of 20th century. To believe in the existence of man, he believed that man should be considered in isolation.
2. Existence comes from essence or essence is prior to existence.
3. Virtue contains a single value. We all have to cultivate the virtue of authenticity in ourselves.
4. We choose our own values not to please others but to make ourselves happy.
5. Ethics of Authenticity means accepting our burden of radical freedom and our happiness and freedom is created by us alone.
6. Example of soldier who has to fight his enemies on one hand and extreme sickness of his mother on the other; ethical dilemma.

Q4a) Examine the arguments in support of Retributive theory of punishment.

Answer –

1. One is punished to make him realise that deliberate violation is the cause of punishment.
2. Chief aim is to hold the dignity, majesty and supremacy of moral laws.
3. Punishment is an end and not means. Moral law should not become handmade to anyone.
4. Aristotle and Hegel are of the opinion that punishment is a kind of negative reward paid to the criminal.
5. Retributive theory is of two kinds, Rigoristic and Mollified.
6. Punishment naturally prevents a criminal as well as all others from committing the crime. Hence this theory is sum total of all theories.

b) Discuss the Deterrent theory of punishment.

Answer –

1. The aim of this theory is to prevent or deter others from committing similar offences.
2. To prevent all others from committing the same crime and to set an example in the society.
3. He is punished so that no one will repeat the same act of violating moral law.

Criticism

- a) We are not reminding him of the majesty and supremacy of law.
- b) Treats human beings as a means not an end in themselves.

05

c) Bring out the arguments in support of Capital punishment.

Answer -----

1. Capital punishment means punishment by sentencing the criminal to death. It is given as an ultimate penalty for grave offence or major crimes.
2. The justification for the death penalty is often done in many ways.
3. He has deprived a person of his life and so should be deprived of his life.
4. Like crime punishment has a dual character. The penalty the criminal incurs is not simply death but disgraceful death.

Drawbacks

- a) It fails to treat the criminal as a person and as an end in himself.
- b) Giving life imprisonment is wasting public money.
- c) There might be mistake in judgement, so called criminal may be really innocent.

Q.5. Write notes on any two of the following-

20

a) Hobbes's views on state of nature.

- Hobbes' moral philosophy-
- Evaluating objects and actions as good or evil depends on desires and aversions.
- Nothing is intrinsically good or bad.
- Whatever man desires is good for him- whatever he hates is bad.
- Good and bad are relative to the individual and always changing.
- This relativity changes with the establishment of commonwealth through social contract.

b) Criticism of Bentham's Utilitarianism.

1. This Utilitarianism was established on a purely quantitative basis which took into account the amount of pleasure and the number of individuals involved.
2. Bentham places ethical Hedonism on Psychological hedonism.
3. Since it is natural for man to seek pleasure, we ought to desire pleasure
4. Bentham explains his transition from egoism to altruism with the help of four moral sanctions. They are physical, social and religious sanction.

06

C) St. Augustine's views on Problem of evil.

- d) 1. The ideal of all human conduct is mystical ideal. The mind's union with God.
- e) 2. Supreme virtue is the love of God and regards temperance, fortitude and wisdom as virtues.
- f) 3. Both rich and poor are capable of salvation; worldly possession is hindrance to the progress of the soul.
- g) 4. Augustine discusses absolute perfection and relative perfection.
- h) 5. The highest ideal for him is the life of renunciation and asceticism.

d) Reformatory theory of Punishment.

- 1. This theory does not believe in giving pain to an offender. This theory believes in educating or reforming an offender.
- 2. This theory maintains that the tendency to commit crime is to some extent inherent in man from his parents.
- 3. This theory also holds that most of the crimes are due to pathological and psychological phenomenon that is one who commits crime is due to some mental deficiency or insanity or psychological effect.

Criticism:

- a) If we say all crimes are due to some mental disease, due to absence of proper education then the entire society is nothing but a mass of insane, abnormal, handicapped and uneducated people.
- b) There are people in society who possess sound health, wealth, mental condition and high education. Yet they indulge in many wrongs. How is this justified?
