

Study Guide for Fundamentals of Ethics

Chapter One

Ethics and Ethical Reasoning

1. Explain what Ethics, as a branch of philosophy, is concerned with.
2. Distinguish between normative ethics and metaethics.
3. Distinguish between a descriptive judgment and an evaluative, or normative judgment.
4. Discuss the relationship between ethics and religion, including an explanation and critique of the Divine Command Theory.
5. Explain how one might argue that moral judgments override other normative judgments.
6. Discuss the importance of giving reasons when making an ethical evaluation.
7. Explain how analogy is often used in ethical reasoning.
8. Explain how ethical reasoning involves both factual and conceptual issues, using an example.
9. Explain the relationship between an ethical theory and an ethical judgment, and discuss the various ways in which one can move between the two.
10. Discuss the following theoretical approaches to doing ethics: consequentialist (teleological), nonconsequentialist (deontological), naturalistic, and feminist.
11. Discuss the question of whether ethics can be taught.

Key Terms

Philosophy	Ethics	Moral Philosophy	Metaethics
Reason	Rational	Emotions	Motive
Evaluative	Norms	Descriptive	Normative
Deontological	Right	Ethical Theory	Good
Consequentialist	Rights	Teleological	Ought
Nonconsequentialist		Divine Command Theory	