

Short Essay Questions : Moral Psychology

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0.1. Instructions

Choose any one question. Do not attempt to answer more than one question in your essay.

0.2. Using sources

Do not cite sources that are not referenced in the lecture notes already. Unless you have an excellent reason for doing so, which you must state in the essay.

Always give page numbers.

Examiners on this course frequently comment 'your essay could have been improved by focussing on fewer high-quality sources and covering them in more depth.'

0.3. Lecture Materials

Each question draws on specific sections of the lecture material, which also provide sources. Your essay should demonstrate knowledge of evidence, arguments and theories from the lecture material relevant to the thesis you aim to establish.

Examiners on this course frequently comment 'your essay could have been improved by making better use of the lecture material.'

0.4. Glossary

Use the glossary. The lecture materials include a glossary to facilitate communication between us. You may deviate from the glossary providing you explicate your terms and providing you have good reason for doing so.

0.5. Advice

The questions below are written with a view to allowing a wide range of good answers, including some your examiners may not have foreseen. Your essay should answer the question chosen but it need not provide a complete answer. The best essays are often tightly focussed on one aspect of the question. This is fine: just be sure to explain the part of the question you are addressing and demonstrate that you are aware of what else would be needed to fully answer the question.

0.6. Structure

Open your essay by stating the thesis you will defend.

If necessary (ideally not), explain how the thesis is relevant to your chosen question.

The rest of your essay should provide a single coherent line of argument for your thesis and nothing else.

0.7. Difficulty Level

Some questions permit answers that are relatively straightforward to establish. In general, you should not limit yourself to establishing a straightforward answer if aiming for a high mark.

0.8. Support for Planning

One of the seminars for this course will provide you with an opportunity to discuss your plans.

0.9. Marking Criteria

This course uses the standard philosophy marking criteria. Ideally your essay will demonstrate an awareness of a philosophical issue in behavioural sciences. We are aware that students taking this course may come from a variety of disciplines. Your essay can be written in the style of an essay from any of the disciplines covered on this course.

0.10. Citation Style

Use exactly one of the following citation styles: APA, Harvard or Chicago.

0.11. Word Count

Everything counts towards the word limit.

Acronyms, abbreviations and contractions count as the corresponding number of full words. For example, TLA counts as three words. (Hint: do not invent acronyms. Your readers are miserable enough already.)

There are many ways to count words. Your essay must be under the word limit according to any way of counting words. Your examiners' ways of counting words may not match your own, so leave a margin.

Examiners will stop reading if they hit the word limit.

0.12. Bespoke Questions

You may devise your own question through discussion with s.butterfill@warwick.ac.uk. Your question must then be submitted using a form on the Philosophy web pages and formally approved.

Do not answer a question not on this list without written approval.

1. How, if at all, should discoveries about the roles of habitual and goal-directed processes inform attempts to solve The Problem of Action?

1.1. Hints

Check the glossary entry on The Problem of Action, habitual process and . Please also follow the general instructions for *Short Essay Questions*.

1.2. Lecture Notes

This is not an exhaustive list but may help you if you missed something. The list may grow over the weeks as lectures are added. Consider also using the search function.

The following sections contain material relevant to answering this question.

- *Goal-Directed and Habitual Processes* in Lecture 01
- *Philosophical Theories of Action* in Lecture 01
- *The Problem of Action meets Habitual Processes* in Lecture 02

1.3. Reading

If you are following the lecture notes and seminars, you should already know what to read. You do not need to consult this list. This is only for people coming to the assignment without using the lecture notes (not recommended).

- Davidson (1971)
- Dickinson & Pérez (2018)

1.4. Further Reading

- Dickinson (2016)
- Dickinson (1985)
- Kalis & Ometto (2021)

1.5. Where to Find the Reading?

In some cases the references section already includes a link to help you find the reading. (These links will not appear in this pdf.)

If there is no link in the references section, start by searching for the title (and, if that fails, by title and authors) on google scholar. If this fails, the library has resources. If those fail, please check first with others on the course. If you still have problems, you may email your seminar tutor.

2. Which, if any, applications of decision theory are incompatible with the truth of Dickinson's dual process theory of action?

2.1. Hints

Check the glossary entry on decision theory and the dual-process theory of instrumental action.

Be sure you understand what an application of decision theory is.

What to read on decision theory?

- Jeffrey (1983) is probably still the best introduction to decision theory for those with philosophical interests.
-
- Sugden (1991, §§I–IV) is an excellent but very difficult discussion.
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- Steele & Stefánsson (2020) provides an overview of decision theory as presented by Jeffrey's and a discussion of some challenges (in §5).

Please also follow the general instructions for *Short Essay Questions*.

2.2. Lecture Notes

This is not an exhaustive list but may help you if you missed something. The list may grow over the weeks as lectures are added. Consider also using the search function.

The following sections contain material relevant to answering this question.

- *Dual Process Theory Opposes Decision Theory?* in Lecture 03
- *Goal-Directed and Habitual Processes* in Lecture 01
- *What Are Preferences?* in Lecture 03

2.3. Reading

If you are following the lecture notes and seminars, you should already know what to read. You do not need to consult this list. This is only for people coming to the assignment without using the lecture notes (not recommended).

- Dickinson (2016)

- Jeffrey (1983)

2.4. Where to Find the Reading?

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3. What, according to Michael Bratman, is shared intention? Why, if at all, do we need a theory of shared intention?

3.1. Hints

Check the glossary entry on shared intention and The Problem of Joint Action.

Please also follow the general instructions for *Short Essay Questions*.

3.2. Lecture Notes

This is not an exhaustive list but may help you if you missed something. The list may grow over the weeks as lectures are added. Consider also using the search function.

The following sections contain material relevant to answering this question.

- *Bratman on Shared Intentional Action* in Lecture 04
- *Salomone-Sehr's Minimalist Account of Joint Action* in Lecture 04

3.3. Reading

If you are following the lecture notes and seminars, you should already know what to read. You do not need to consult this list. This is only for people coming to the assignment without using the lecture notes (not recommended).

- Bratman (1992)
- Bratman (1993)

3.4. Further Reading

- Bratman (2014)
- Gilbert (2010)
- Ludwig (2007)

3.5. Where to Find the Reading?

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If there is no link in the references section, start by searching for the title (and, if that fails, by title and authors) on google scholar. If this fails, the library has resources. If those fail, please check first with others on the course. If you still have problems, you may email your seminar tutor.

4. What is team reasoning? Which, if any, social interactions are better modeled by team reasoning than game theory?

4.1. Hints

Check the glossary entry on team reasoning and game theory.

Please also follow the general instructions for *Short Essay Questions*.

4.2. Lecture Notes

This is not an exhaustive list but may help you if you missed something. The list may grow over the weeks as lectures are added. Consider also using the search function.

The following sections contain material relevant to answering this question.

- *The Autonomy Dilemma (Objection to Pacherie)* in Lecture 06
- *Pacherie's Objection to Bratman on Shared Intention* in Lecture 06
- *What Is Team Reasoning?* in Lecture 05

4.3. Reading

If you are following the lecture notes and seminars, you should already know what to read. You do not need to consult this list. This is only for people coming to the assignment without using the lecture notes (not recommended).

- Sugden (2000)

4.4. Further Reading

- Bacharach (2006)

4.5. Where to Find the Reading?

In some cases the references section already includes a link to help you find the reading. (These links will not appear in this pdf.)

If there is no link in the references section, start by searching for the title (and, if that fails, by title and authors) on google scholar. If this fails, the library

has resources. If those fail, please check first with others on the course. If you still have problems, you may email your seminar tutor.

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