

Questions on Kant's *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals**

Section I:

1. KEY QUESTION – According to Kant the only thing which is unqualifiedly good is a good will. What is Kant's argument for this position? (In thinking about this, keep in mind Mill's claim that motives don't matter.)
2. What argument does Kant offer for thinking that the pursuit of happiness is not the purpose nature has given man?
3. What, in Kant's view, is the connection (or conflict) between inclination and duty?
4. What does Kant say of those who give to the poor because they get pleasure from helping others?

Section II:

1. What is Kant's objection to deriving moral principles from examples?
2. What sets rational beings apart from other animals?
3. KEY QUESTION – What is the difference between hypothetical and categorical imperatives?
4. What is Kant's objection to treating 'maximize happiness' as the fundamental principle of morality?
5. What are the three formulations of the Categorical Imperative?
6. KEY QUESTION – for each of the four examples: what is wrong with the proposed maxims? Be clear about which test each fails and why.
7. Note that the Categorical Imperative says we ought never treat others "simply as a means." It does not rule out profiting from others as long as they are respected as ends in themselves. How might someone profit from others while respecting them as ends in themselves?
8. KEY QUESTION: How do these examples go?
9. What is the difference between having a market price, a fancy price, and a dignity?

* Gratefully adapted from materials from Geoff Sayre-McCord.