

Essay Questions:

C. Present the case for and against there being one ultimate moral value.

(Suggestions: Much of the literature on utilitarianism will offer material on the case 'for'. In particular, there is the difficult discussion in chapter 4 of John Stuart Mill 's book *Utilitarianism*, which should be read with care, noting especially that it occurs in the context of Mill 's earlier claim that utilitarianism be proved to be true. There is useful material in Smart and Williams, *Utilitarianism: For and Against*, and in many of the collections listed. There are selections from Mill and from Williams in Sterba 's *Ethics: The Big Questions*. One of the major texts in medical ethics, Tom L. Beauchamp and James F Childress's *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, 5th edition), presents four key values, those of autonomy, justice, non-maleficence (not doing harm) and beneficence (doing good), and their discussion might serve as a basis for examination of a multi-valued system. It has been criticised for selecting and arbitrating the values in an arbitrary fashion, so it might be an interesting project either to try to justify this set of values or develop a better one.)

D. What is the moral significance of rules?

(Suggestions: This might be answered with a narrow focus on utilitarianism, or within a broader perspective. For utilitarianism, start by reading Smart and Williams; Lyons has a good discussion of types of utilitarianism, and Glover's 'Part Six' is also worth reading as well. You might instead start with a particular case - such as that of Henry and his doctor Joan in chapter one, where there was a discussion of whether he should be told truthfully, that he is HIV negative, or be told a lie for his own sake and the sake of others. Could there be non-utilitarian reasons for breaking a rule against lying? This may serve as one way into the broader question of the significance of rules.)