

# Philosophy Made Simple

## Ethics 1 (pp. 1-11)

Always answer on a separate sheet in full sentences and with examples where possible. Avoid starting with “Because”, “So”, “That” or “Which”. Blend quotes into your own sentences if you can’t paraphrase an idea or phrase. (/25)

### The definition of “ethics”

- i. Explain how ethics is both a *code* and a *study*. (2)
- ii. In your own words, explain the ethical theory of “hedonism”. What is the weakness of hedonism? (2)

### Ethics originates in everyday life

- iii. Explain what the philosopher tries to do that the average reflective person does not. Give one example. (1)

### Classification of ethical theories / Classical theories

- iv. What’s the basic definition of classical ethics? (1)

### Platonism

- v. According to Plato, what’s the cause of evil? (1)
- vi. Plato believes that the search for the good life is akin (or similar) to the search for mathematical proofs. Why, nevertheless, can intellectually inferior people still live an ethical and virtuous life? (1)
- vii. Why does Plato support censorship? (1)
- viii. Plato also argued in favour of an intellectual ruling class – the famous “philosopher kings” – because only they had the capacity to truly understand and appreciate the moral truth. Explain Plato’s concept of moral truth. (2)
- ix. Why did Plato influence later Christian and Islamic thought? (1)

### Criticisms of Platonism

- x. Explain how the psychological judgment that Plato employs is faulty. (2)
- xi. Explain the two criticisms of Plato’s moral absolutism. (4)

### Aristotle: The Doctrine of the Mean

- xii. How is Aristotle different from Plato and most other Greek philosophers? (1)
- xiii. Aristotle’s theory of happiness is based on the “golden mean”. Explain the concept. (2)
- xiv. How does Aristotle regard the “virtues”? (1)
- xv. Why does this make Aristotle’s ethics much less rigid than Plato’s? (1)

### Criticism of Aristotle

- xvi. Explain the two criticisms of Aristotle’s ethics. (2)