



Carter, Alan 'Hume and Nature' in LaFollette (Ed.) Ethics in Practice (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002) 664-673.



1. Carter starts his chapter with a thought experiment known as the 'Last Person Argument'. What is it and what is it meant to show?
2. What is the 'intrinsic tension' of environmental ethics that Carter describes as 'irreconcilable'? How does Leopold seek to dissolve this tension?
3. We have already discussed Hume's argument for ethics being an 'office of taste'. Make sure you have clear notes on it.
4. Remember that criticisms and counters (replies are great for getting good IB Philosophy marks. Make a record of the initial criticism of Hume's colour analogy and a potential reply.
5. The paragraph describing 'ideas' and 'impressions' is clearer than most. Make sure you add to your core theme notes as some might point to Hume's 'observation' as the answer to the core theme question - think about how it might connect with other core theme thinkers (666).
6. Why does Hume think we dislike to see others in pain (666)?
7. What are 'natural virtues'?
8. What is the 'problem' to which Carter points (667)? What is a potential solution and how convincing do you find it?
9. Why might Humean Normative Ethics be useful for the environmentalist (be sure to mention the role of reason)?
10. What is meant by the term 'morally significant property' (669)? Why does it matter?
11. Carter thinks that there is a subtle confusion lying beneath the 'Last Person Argument'. What is it and why is it significant (670-1)? Explain your answer in Hume's vocabulary.
12. Carter calls moral properties 'useful' even if they are ultimately based on projections. How can this be true (671)?
13. Why does Rolsten object to a 'projectivist' ethic? Is his objection convincing?

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