

QUESTIONS

- 1 What is consequentialism? (60)
- 2 Why does Benn talk little of Bentham, and move quickly to Mill? (61 - pushpin & poetry)
- 3 Which three principles does JS Mill's *Utilitarianism* combine? (61)
- 4 What notion of morality, then, is Mill turning his back on? (useful to discuss connections with Christian morality - Mill offended many by suggesting he was articulating the 'ethics of Christ')
- 5 Benn thinks he finds a problem in the hedonistic element of Mills work., particularly concerning his use of the words 'happiness' and 'pleasure'. What is it? (63)
- 6 How might a follower of Mill respond to this criticism? (64)
- 7 What, according to Mill, is the 'important point' of the higher/lower order pleasures distinction?
- 8 If the pleasure of a sadist is not *intrinsically* bad (in itself), what is wrong with torturing children? Think about if you agree with Benn here.
- 9 Benn suggests the hedonistic element is in 'ostensible conflict' with another principle of Mill's position. Which is it?
- 10 How would a consequentialist answer the claim that there is no place for rules in a theory concerned with the consequences of a given action? (72)
- 11 Look at Benn's traffic lights example (73). Try to develop your own example, noting its consequences and those of other variations of the rule.
- 12 Can one be purely a *rule* consequentialist? (74)
- 13 What is the relevance to utilitarianism of the act-omission distinction? (78)
- 14 Benn suggests that consequentialism cannot take proper account of intention. What does this mean?
- 15 Complete this sentence: "The largest problem with relying completely on consequences when making a moral decision is..." (81&2)
- 16 Why, to the consequentialist, is the notion of a 'moral dilemma' problematic? (82&3)
- 17 What is Nagel's objection to consequentialism? Do you find it convincing?

- 18 What is the 'impartial benevolent spectator'?
- 19 What does it mean to treat someone as 'an end in themselves'? What does this have to do with Justice, and with utilitarianism?
- 20 What do you understand by the phrase 'utilitarian justice'?