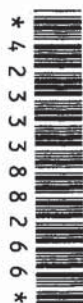




UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS



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Write in dark blue or black pen.

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Write the question number in the left-hand column provided on each page.

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Write the numbers of the questions you answer in the order attempted in the left-hand column of the boxes on the right of this page.

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| Question number | Mark |
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TOPIC 2

ETHICSSECTION A

4ca1

Sartre believed that we were either wholly determined, or radically free. As he was not a theist, he believed the latter, lending us the total freedom of choice to do whatever we wish. This belief was strengthened by his other main belief that we are beings whose 'existence precedes his essence', thus believing that there was no pre-determining psychological factor. He labels those who 'hide from this freedom' as 'cowards', as they would act in a 'guise of solemnity'. The community criticized existentialism for this effect, labeling it as 'Quietism'.

Furthermore, he labels parties that attempt to reason a purpose for their existence as 'scum'. Following this, he admits that he has said we do have freedom of choice, however with acts like this, one is still able to judge others, displaying a certain 'universal' morality.

He also analyses Kant, agreeing with his deduction that freedom is a 'will both to itself and to the freedom of others'. However he criticises Kant's notion that ~~the~~ the 'formal and the universal' are decent

foundations for the creation of an ethical system.

Additionally he held the belief that there was no 'shared human essence', this can be seen as stemming from the belief that existence precedes essence, hence the knowledge of true freedom would lead to qualities such as 'Anguish', 'Abandonment' and 'Despair', Anguish that we were wholly free, abandonment after realising there is no God, and despair at the choices. He reasoned however that it was awareness that motivated us.

4 (b)

'No rule of general morality can show you what you ought to do.'

- Evaluate this claim.

John-Paul Sartre's beliefs can be seen in the quote by Dostoevsky: "Without God, anything is permissible." This ^{statement} ~~concept~~ held that without an ever-present overseeing force to the world, there could therefore be no overarching ethical system by which we would have to constantly measure ourselves against. Although some may argue for the case of God, Nietzsche said that the belief in religion entailed a "slave morality", as we would be wary of the consequences of any act deemed as bad, and some might argue that those who believe in God only do the good so that they may be rewarded.

This idea of 'no general morality' is also helped by Sartre's belief's that our 'existence precedes ~~our~~ essence' resulting in no innate knowledge being held with which one might deduce a universal moral system. However this has faced multiple criticisms, scientifically it has been shown we do possess innate knowledge, which includes acts like suckling, this ~~is~~ is also strengthened by evidence that many cultures seem to have a similar depiction

of good, usually holding that killing is bad.

One may rebut this however, saying that these morals aren't really innate rules on morality, but simply help a society held together more easily.

There are other moral doctrines which don't necessitate that killing is bad. Utilitarianism would argue that it depends on the situation, unlike Mill's rule utilitarianism which argues that some actions are always bad, and so one should avoid them.

Conversely ~~one may rebut these claims saying~~ that there are many who refuse Sartre's claims by saying that existentialism is as a philosophy, too optimistic. Also critics claim that we can't so readily reject God, as even still it is a hotly debated topic. Furthermore, there are too many seen to hop on the 'bandwagon' for existentialism, seeing it as popular, without realising what an austere philosophy it is.

Existentialism saw the first great crime when in the trial of Leopold and Loeb, they claimed that they were attempting to achieve Nietzsche's concept of the übermensch, transcending societal norms, and cultural expectations to act on what they would do. Although they were let off, ~~for~~ for their lawyer reasoned they were a result of their upbringing, rarely are

such drastic actions taken.

~~His~~ Conversely, rejection of a moral system would render beings like Hitler free from guilt, when it is an almost universal consensus that he acted in bad faith.

Sartre would argue that his philosophy had been misunderstood as Hitler's actions directly conflicted with the freedom of others to act as they wanted. One might then draw this point to demonstrate how existentialism speaks out against acts like killing, as it prevents them from acting as they would desire.

SECTION B

5. CONSIDER THE VIEW THAT VIRTUE ETHICS IS THE MOST USEFUL ETHICAL THEORY WHEN CONSIDERING BUSINESS ETHICS.

Milton Friedman ~~for~~ famously pondered whether business and ethics should have anything to do with each other. This thought is based on the capitalist writings of Scottish economist Adam Smith, who suggested that the purpose of business was profit, not moral development. This theory can be traced to his 'invisible hand' principle. This thought encompassed his ideology that given the freedom, people would govern themselves in regard to the economy. However, one might criticize this with Smith's own writing as he advocated against the use of 'underhand' techniques by business. ~~He~~ Many have rebutted this statement, by pointing out that perhaps Smith meant in regards to legalities that the country might hold.

In more recent times, businesses have been seen to move away from the industrial-era generalization of an massively exploited ~~for~~ public, which was seen as

a business attitude with a single bottom line: profit. Although some critics may argue that this is still the case in less economically developed countries, businesses are generally taken as adopting a triple bottom line; profit, people and planet. ~~Although one might land~~ This can be seen in recent cases where BP froze assets so that they could fund the clean up of ~~an oil~~ a catastrophic oil spill. Although one might applaud the seemingly benevolent nature of the business, one has to analyse the motives behind this, seeing that failure to clean up the mess would result in equally catastrophic negative publicity, resulting in a decline of shareholders.

Admittedly though, some companies as a whole can be seen to focus too on the stakeholders, with caps ~~on~~ on incomes seen to prevent a proportionately ridiculous economical payout system, seen to lessen exploitation. Furthermore Companies like Apple and Google also attempt to create a working environment that attempts to develop their workers, with paid 'hobby hours' so that the workers may develop interests and operate outside of the company.

There are those, however, who believe that we are obliged to help those who are less capable. For example, although Kant would argue a similar

cause, saying that it would be the right thing to do, Peter Singer argues that we are 'opulent', he calls for the developed west to give 30% of their final income to charitable causes, reasoning that we can still treat ourselves, yet that money is proportionally worth more to many lives in lesser economically developed countries.

There are those who believe that although our economical system may need, it is fundamentally corrupt, in the capitalist consumerist culture now seen.