

1. Solomon believes both of the following: (1) consistently maintaining integrity and fair dealing (call this IFD) are necessary for a flourishing and enduring business (call this FEB); and (2) neither playing by the rules nor obeying the law and refusing to treat employees, managers, and customers fairly (call this NPOR) are sufficient for a business failure (call this BF).

Furthermore, Solomon assumes that FEB is widespread. 2002 polls show that people believe that NPOR is also widespread. If Solomon's assumption and the 2002 poll are both correct, then what are the logical consequences for (1) and (2)? Please offer step by step details of your reasoning.

I'll take what is given as true: namely FEB and NPOR are both true. From FEB and (1), it follows that IFD must be true. Likewise, from NPOR and (2), it follows that BF must also be true. However, IFD and BF cannot both be true because they are contradictory. Since, we are given that FEB as well as NPOR are true, then it follows that we must reject either (1) or (2), or possibly both of them. (This is the "logical heart" of the answer, many of you added information which supported rejecting (1) or (2).)

2. Solomon offers a definition of the good life as follows: x is the good life iff x hedonistic, where hedonism is defined as pursuing pleasure or satisfying desires. He rejects hedonism as sufficient for the good life with a counterexample in his text. I want you to do the same here (you may use his counterexample or your own).

Solomon's example of a hypothetical happiness box which one enters and then one experiences continual pleasure and satisfaction as long as one remains in the box. This is by definition a hedonistic life, but it lacks many features of the good life that involve real relationships with other people so that this life is not an example of the good life. (Some of you used specific "hedonistic" acts that had "unhappy" consequences, but this is not clearly an example of a hedonistic *life*, because hedonists can be very calculating with regard to pleasure. The issue is not whether a specific instance of pleasure is sufficient for the good life - even hedonists will disagree with this - but whether a whole life of pleasures is sufficient.)

3. Explain the three ways in which Newton believes morality is “grounded” in human nature and offer some general examples of duties, values, or virtues which arise in each of these three areas.

Newton believes that (1) we are embodied and as such our needs and welfare are of concern to us and this human need and vulnerability gives rise to duties of compassion and beneficence; (2) we are rational in that we can conceive of possibilities and choose among alternatives and this ability gives rise to respect for persons and responsibility for our own choices; (3) we are social in that we live in groups with the need for a social structure and this gives rise to concern over justice and fairness.

4. Recall the New England Fisheries case. Describe the use of the ADAPT (Attention, Dialog, Assumptions, Proposals, Test) decision procedure to come to a resolution of this case.

The issue is the collapse of New England fishing grounds: both the tonnage and value of the catch are dropping yearly. These facts need to be brought to our attention to as something which is not just a part of a natural cycle of fishing, but as something which human fishing activities has contributed toward. Also, we can't wait for the natural economic cycle to lead to a fewer fishing boats because federal subsidies have acted to keep the fishing industry profitable. A dialog is needed between scientists (who can testify about the best natural environment for fishing stocks to rebound), fishing interests (who will have to live with any agreement), and government officials (who will have to enforce any agreement). Assumptions will need to be addressed concerning (1) how fish breed and the effect fishing activities have on breeding; and (2) how fishing interests will react to various proposals, e.g. the tragedy of the commons, e.g., if an individual restricts his/her catch and no one does, then only he/she will suffer and the problem will not be addressed. Proposals need to be offered and Tested, e.g. voluntary restrictions have been proposed and enacted, but has not solved the problem as the actual yearly catch still exceeds the restrictions and, as a result, the fishing stock is still in decline.

5. Briefly explain the significance of St. Benedict and the later Protestant Reformation on views related to work and business.

St. Benedict believed that it was a divine vocation for some to work. Benedictines were noted as called to their work. This valorization of work extended to all types of activity even the most menial and ended any differences in the value of different types work which came from Aristotle. It developed what came to be called as a work ethic. The Protestant Reformation extended this work ethic all people, not just those called to be Benedictines.

6. What is the ideal of the bourgeois tradesman, and how does it determine just prices of goods and services and so their just distribution across society?

This business ideal is for individuals freely able to enter into trade with another on the basis of mutual self-interest. This allows the exchange rates for goods to be negotiated in an open market where competition serves as an invisible hand which leads exchangers to produce the best good at the lowest cost to them and sets the just exchange rate of what people are willing to exchange. The resulting distribution of goods across society is just because it is the result of a free and voluntary exchange

7. Explain the notion of the corporation (and its level of agency) and how, according to Newton, it leads to the following consequence: the subject of moral duties for the common good, i.e., the owners, has effectively disappeared.

In large publicly held corporations, the relationship between the agent of corporate action and subject of moral duties for the common good disappears, practically speaking. The owners of these corporations are stockholders and stock ownership can vary greatly over time and may well extend around the world, in some cases. Stock ownership, itself, has become a means of generating income so that many owners are either unaware of which corporations they own or unconcerned with the particular issues of these corporations. As a result, managers are not able to effectively consult with owners before considering other duties/actions. At this level of corporate organization, the subject of moral duties for the common good, i.e., the owners, has effectively disappeared.

8. Please explain the law of subsistence wage and how it conflicts with the ideals of the bourgeois tradesman. Briefly outline the moral responses by Dickens, Marx, and Solomon/Newton.

Wages paid to unskilled workers depend upon the overall population. If workers are plentiful, then wages will be lower, however if wages go too low, then the population will decrease and fewer unskilled workers will lead to increased wages. This increase in wages, in turn, leads to increased population. The overall level of wages is thereby related to the overall population and will stabilize at a subsistence level. This is the law of subsistence wage. This conflicts with the ideal of the bourgeois tradesman where all people involved in shoemaking participate in the open market with respect to the price of shoes and this is directly related to one's standard of living. However, in the latter scenario, unskilled workers participate in the open market only with respect to wages. One's standard of living is directly related not to the price of shoes, but the number of available unskilled workers.

As subsistence wage levels lead to poverty conditions. Dickens' works publicized these conditions leading to a series of labor laws that have increased the level of wages for unskilled workers over subsistence levels. Marx's solution is to "socialize" property such that all (both unskilled workers and factory owners) equally participate (and benefit) in the open market negotiation of prices. Solomon/Newton believe that we should expand the restricted narrow "fiduciary responsibility" of management to include various moral duties towards the rest of society.

9. From Lennick's text, define integrity, responsibility, compassion, and forgiveness in your own words and illustrate them with examples from Lennick's text.

Integrity is acting consistently with your principles, values, and beliefs. Responsibility is being accountable for your choices and actions and extending your concern to others. Compassion and Forgiveness involve active caring about others and letting go of mistakes. (You can add your own favorite example from the text.)