Business, Society & Ethics

Fall 2023

Unit Exams

ANTONIO GUILLEM/SHUTTERSTOCK

▶ **Each unit exam has 50 multiple-choice problems to be done in 50 minutes**

▶ **Unit exams are non-cumulative, open book, open notes, but closed technology**

▶ **There are 4 unit exam, each worth up to 1,000 philosophy experience points**

4,000
total possible philosophy experience points from all four of the unit exams

At the end of each unit, there will be an in-class, sit-down unit exam.

These exams are *not* cumulative, focusing primarily on new material covered since the previous unit exam. However, keep in mind that some important concepts will remain relevant throughout the whole course.

Here's What I Want You to Do: Each unit exam has 50 multiple-choice problems for you to answer.

You will have the full 50 minutes of class time to complete the exam, so arrive promptly. One minute per multiple-choice problem is standard for college-level exams. Most students average 35 minutes to complete the exam, and then they use the rest of the time to check their work before submitting their exams.

Here's Why I Want You to Do It: The purpose of these unit exams is to provide you with the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the concepts, arguments, positions, and applications we have covered so far in the course.

More specifically, each unit exam is intended to assess your progress towards the first learning outcomes for this course:

1. Assess competing claims about the demands ethics and morality place on business decisions.

Here's How to Do It: For each reading, I will post questions that will help you identify important points and ideas in the texts. So as you are reading, I highly encourage you to *take simple notes* that attempt to answer (or at least sketch out an answer to) those reading questions. If convenient, you might consider printing out the reading and writing your answers directly on the text itself.

After that, I highly encourage you to attend our class meetings (where we discuss the reading) and take notes. However, do not feel like you must write down literally everything that we cover during these class meetings. Just try to capture the main points, such as definitions, premises and conclusions to arguments, and any applications of course concepts. You should also note anything else that helps you answer those reading questions.

Unit Exam Structure

Problem Type	Total Possible Points	Expected Time to Complete
50 Multiple Choice	1,0000	50 Minutes

Unit Exams

The unit exams are open book and open notes–so developing your course notes is a great way to prepare yourself for success.

If you take notes in these ways, then the unit exam should be pretty straightforward. You will immediately know the solutions to the multiple-choice problems, or, at least, know where to quickly find those solutions. Of course, some problems may still challenge you, but I do not intend for any of them to trick you!

Here's How You'll Earn Philosophy Experience Points: Unless I say otherwise, each unit exam problem will be worth 20 philosophy experience points. There will be 50 of these problems per unit exam, for a total of 1,000 possible philosophy experience points per unit exam.

Each problem on a unit exam is scored in the following way:

- Each correct response earns 20 points,
- Each incorrect response earns 0 points, and
- Each blank response (i.e., not trying to answer the problem) earns 5 points.

I award points in this way to discourage random guessing on the unit exams. It also highlights problems that I may need to reassess.

Putting this together, you can earn up to 1,000 philosophy experience points per unit exam. With 4 unit exams this semester, that is a total possible 4,000 points.

In addition, if you think there is a problem with a unit exam problem, let me know! In fact, if I correct a mistake you identify, *I'll give you 0.20 (i.e., one fifth) of a philosopher's stone.* Boo-ya!

Using Philosopher's Stones: You may use philosopher's stones for Reverse Time.

Reverse Time: After a graded unit exam is returned to you, you then have up to 1 week to give up 5 philosopher's stones in order to revise and resubmit any incorrect answers for that exam. This may only be done *once* per unit exam.
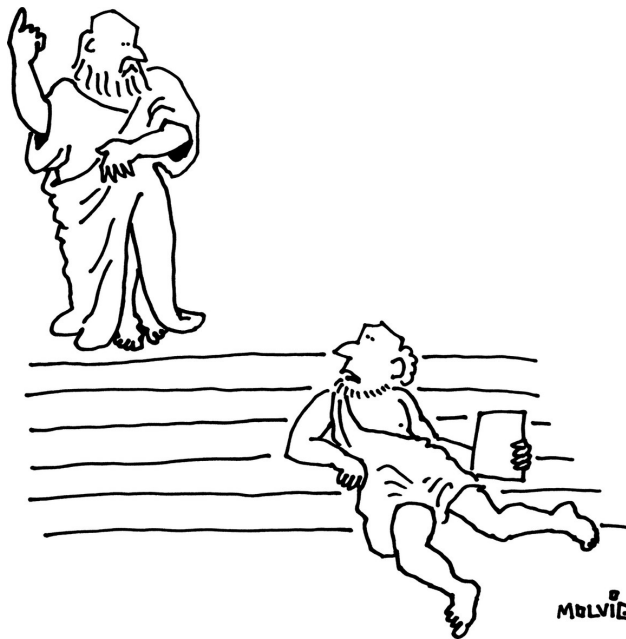
Collaboration & Academic Integrity: While the unit exams may be open book and open notes, *I expect that you are bringing your own materials to the exam and not simply using copies of someone else's material.* This is because the unit exams are meant to assess *your* progress and the extent to which *you* are achieving the learning outcomes.

For similar reasons, I also expect that you *do not try to find old unit exams, problems, and their solutions online.*

Of course, if you feel like you are struggling with these unit exams, please do not hesitate to seek help from me.

The bottom line Take notes, do the readings, see me with questions, sleep well the night before, and you should do fine on these unit exams.

Is this going to be on the midterm?

Unit Exams

Multiple-Choice Problems (Sample)

For each problem below, clearly indicate the *one* item (A, B, C, or D) that is the best response. (Put your response in the box next to the problem.)

> **Grading** Each correct response earns 20 philosophy experience points;
> Each incorrect response earns 0 points; and
> Each non-response (i.e., leaving the "your response" box blank/empty) earns 5 points.

Your Response   **Problem**

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1. A normative claim may be best understood as a...

    A.   curious question that shows a desire to learn more.

    B.   factual assertion that attempts to explain a situation.

    C.   startling exclamation that draws in our attention.

    D.   value judgment that either prescribes or evaluates.

2. Which of the following is a normative claim?

    A.   Slavery involves the buying and selling of human lives.

    B.   Slavery is a horrible and tragic violation of autonomy.

    C.   Slavery used to be an extremely profitable business.

    D.   Slavery was practiced in the southern United States.

3. The field of ethical systems design focuses primarily on answering which one of the following questions?

    A.   How do we encourage good business?

    B.   What is good business?

    C.   What is the purpose of business?

    D.   What ought I do?

4. Which of the following is an example of a second-order desire?

    A.   I do not want to buy any more clothes that I will only wear once.

    B.   I do not want to indulge my urge to punch that jerk in the face.

    C.   I want to hang out with my friends and play some video games.

    D.   I want to rent some quality scuba gear for my summer vacation.