

# Prelims: Mill – Comprehensive Reading List

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## Reading

- John Stuart Mill. *Utilitarianism*. Oxford Philosophical Texts. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1871/1998. Ed. Roger Crisp, chs. 2 and 4.
- Jeremy Bentham. *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*. Glasgow: Fontana, 1789/1962. Ed. Mary Warnock. chs. 1–5.
- Henry Sidgwick. *The Methods of Ethics*. seventh. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1981, Book II, chs. 2–3; Book IV, ch. 1.
- John L. Mackie. *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1977, ch 6.
- Derek Parfit. *Reasons and Persons*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984, appendix I.
- Richard B. Brandt. “Two Concepts of Utility”. In: *The Limits of Utilitarianism*. Ed. by Harlan B. Miller and William H. Williams. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1982, pp. 169–185.
- Amartya Sen and Bernard Williams, eds. *Utilitarianism and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982, introduction.
- James Griffin. *Well-Being*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986, chs. 1 and 2.
- J. J. C. Smart and B. A. O. Williams. *Utilitarianism: For and Against*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973, Smart’s § 3.
- Anthony M. Quinton. *Utilitarian Ethics*. London: Macmillan, 1973, pp. 39–47.
- John Skorupski. *John Stuart Mill*. The Arguments of the Philosophers. New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1989, ch. 9.

## Essay

Evaluate Mill’s view about the connection between pleasure, happiness, and the satisfaction of desires, concentrating on the following: (i) relationships between pleasure, desire and happiness; (ii) Mill’s distinction between higher and lower pleasures; and (iii) whether there are advantages to a utilitarian theory which maintains that we ought to aim at fulfilling people’s desires rather than increasing the experience of pleasure.

## Reading

- Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chs. 2 and 5.
- J. O. Urmson. “The Interpretation of the Moral Philosophy of J. S. Mill”. In: *Philosophical Quarterly* 3 (1953), pp. 33–39. Also in Philippa Foot, ed. *Theories of Ethics*. Oxford Readings in Philosophy. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967.
- John Rawls. “Two Concepts of Rules”. In: *The Philosophical Review* 64 (1955), pp. 3–32. Also in Foot, *Theories of Ethics*.
- Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, ch. 6 §§ 1-4.
- John Jamieson Carswell Smart. “Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism”. In: *Philosophical Quarterly* 6 (1956), pp. 344–54. Also in Foot, *Theories of Ethics*.
- David Barry Lyons. *Forms and Limits of Utilitarianism*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1965, introduction and ch. 3.
- Brad Hooker. “Rule-consequentialism”. In: *Mind* 99 (1990), pp. 67–77.
- Jonathan Glover, ed. *Utilitarianism and Its Critics*. New York: Macmillan, 1990, introduction to § 6.
- Bernard Williams. *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1985, pp. 107-110.
- Smart and Williams, *Utilitarianism: For and Against*, Williams’s § 6.
- Smart and Williams, *Utilitarianism: For and Against*, Smart’s § 7.

## Essay

Explain the difference between act and rule utilitarianism. Which is the more acceptable version of utilitarianism? Which version did Mill propose?

## Integrity

### Reading

- Smart and Williams, *Utilitarianism: For and Against*, Williams’s §§ 2-5.
- John Harris. “Williams on Negative Responsibility and Integrity”. In: *Philosophical Quarterly* 24 (1974), pp. 265–273.
- Bernard Williams. “Persons, Character and Morality”. In: *Moral Luck*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981, pp. 1–19.
- Bernard Williams. “Utilitarianism and Moral Self-indulgence”. In: *Moral Luck*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981, pp. 40–53.

- Glover, *Utilitarianism and Its Critics*, introduction to part 5.
- Peter Railton. “Alienation, Consequentialism and the Demands of Morality”. In: *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 13 (1984). (Also in Samuel Scheffler, ed. *Consequentialism and Its Critics*. Oxford Readings in Philosophy. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988, and James Rachels, ed. *Ethical Theory*. Oxford Readings in Philosophy. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.)
- Scheffler, *Consequentialism and Its Critics*, introduction.
- Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, ch 7.
- R. M. Hare. *Moral Thinking, Its Levels, Method and Point*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1981, chs 2 and 3.

## Essay

What is the integrity objection to utilitarianism? Is it a good objection?

## The ‘Sanctions’ of Morality

- John Stuart Mill. *Utilitarianism*. Glasgow: Fontana, 1863/1962. Ed. Mary Warnock. ch. 3.
- Sidgwick, *The Methods of Ethics*, book II, ch. 5.
- Quinton, *Utilitarian Ethics*, pp. 54-8.
- Bernard Williams. *Morality: An Introduction to Ethics*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1973, ch. 1.
- Bernard Williams. “Egoism and Altruism”. In: *Problems of the Self*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973. ISBN: 0 521 29060 pbk.
- Thomas Nagel. *The Possibility of Altruism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1970. ISBN: 0-691-02002-7 (Pbk), part I, § 1-3.
- Kurt Baier. “Moral Reasons”. In: *Studies in Ethical Theory*. Ed. by Peter A. French, Theodore E. Uehling Jr., and Howard K. Wettstein. Vol. III. Midwest Studies in Philosophy. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1980, pp. 62–74. ISBN: 0-8166-0971-3 (Pbk).
- John Hospers. *Human Conduct*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, & World, 1961. Also in Wilfrid Sellars and John Hospers, eds. *Readings in Ethical Theory*. second. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1970, pp. 174-195.
- David Hume. *Treatise of Human Nature*. second. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1740/1978. L. A. Selby–Bigge (ed.) vol. III, part I, § 1, 1st 4 pages.

## Essay

Explain and evaluate Mill's account of the 'sanctions' of morality? Is his account consistent with his thesis that each person desires only his own happiness?

Could one convince, by argument, someone to act morally who doesn't have some moral feelings?

## The Proof of Utilitarianism and The Naturalistic Fallacy

### Reading

- Mill, *Utilitarianism*, ch. 4.
- R. M. Hare. *The Language of Morals*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1952, ch. 5.
- George Edward Moore. *Principia Ethica*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1903, ch. 1, §§ 1–14; ch. 3, §§ 39–44, 59–65.
- Everett W. Hall. "The 'Proof' of Utility in Bentham and Mill". In: *Ethics* 60 (1949), pp. 1–18. Also in Jerome B. Schneewind, ed. *Mill: A Collection of Critical Essays*. London: Macmillan, 1968.
- Charles R. Pigden. "Naturalism". In: *A Companion to Ethics*. Ed. by Peter Singer. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1991, pp. 421–431.
- Henry R. West. "Mill's 'Proof' of the Principle of Utility". In: *The Limits of Utilitarianism*. Ed. by Harlan B. Miller and William H. Williams. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1982, pp. 23–34.
- Hilary Putnam. *Reason Truth and History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982, ch. 9.
- Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, chs. 2–3.
- William K. Frankena. "The Naturalistic Fallacy". In: *Mind* 48 (1939), pp. 464–77. Also in Foot, *Theories of Ethics*.
- Skorupski, *John Stuart Mill*, ch. 9 §§ 2–4.
- Glover, *Utilitarianism and Its Critics*, introduction to part 1.

## Essay

Explain and evaluate Mill's 'proof' of utilitarianism. (Be sure to distinguish the premises and the conclusion.) Is Mill really trying to prove the principle of utility? Is there a 'naturalistic fallacy'? If so, does Mill's proof commit it?

# Liberty

## Reading

- John Stuart Mill. *On Liberty*. Glasgow: Fontana, 1859/1962. Ed. Mary Warnock. especially ch. I.
- Skorupski, *John Stuart Mill*, ch. 10.
- Isaiah Berlin. “John Stuart Mill and the Ends of Life”. In: *Four Essays on Liberty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1969, pp. 173–206.
- Strasser. “Mill and the Utility of Liberty”. In: *Philosophical Quarterly* (1984).
- C. L. Ten. *Mill on Liberty*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980, ch. 2.
- Joel Feinberg. *Rights, Justice, and the Bounds of Liberty*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1980, ch. 2.

## Essay

Are Mill’s views in *Utilitarianism* consistent with those in *On Liberty*? If not, how should he revise his views to obtain consistency?

# Justice

## Reading

- Mill, *Utilitarianism*, ch. 5.
- Sidgwick, *The Methods of Ethics*, book III, ch. 5.
- John Rawls. “Justice as Fairness”. In: *The Philosophical Review* 67 (1958), pp. 164–194. Also in Hugo A. Bedau, ed. *Justice and Equality*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1971; Sellars and Hospers, *Readings in Ethical Theory*.
- John Rawls. *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press, 1971, §§5-6, 30.
- Ronald Dworkin. “Rights as Trumps”. In: *Theories of Rights*. Ed. by Jeremy Waldron. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Robert Nozick. *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1974, ch. 7.
- Will Kymlicka. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: an Introduction*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990, ch. 3.
- Smart and Williams, *Utilitarianism: For and Against*, Smart’s § 10.

- Sen and Williams, *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, introduction.
- Quinton, *Utilitarian Ethics*, pp. 71–81.

## **Essay**

Does Mill succeed in giving a satisfactory account of justice? Can any utilitarian do so?

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