

Reading Questions for September 10

These questions cover the excerpts from Bentham and Mill. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to do the reading more than once to get the answers.

1. In the first excerpt, Bentham talks about the “principle of utility.” What is this principle and what is the point of it? Which philosopher that we’ve read (Singer, Arthur, or Slote) seems most likely to agree with the principle of utility?
2. In the second excerpt, Bentham discusses the relative value of various kinds of pleasure when it comes to morality. What does he think about the relative values of various kinds of pleasure – are some pleasures more valuable than others?
3. In the third excerpt, John Stuart Mill defends a different view about the value of the various kinds of pleasure. What is his view and how does he defend it? Which view, Bentham’s or Mill’s, do you find more plausible?