

Reading Questions for March 23

These questions cover a reading by Albert Mosley called “A Defense of Affirmative Action.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

In today’s class, we’ll be reading an article in favor of affirmative action; on Wednesday we’ll be reading one arguing against it. In today’s article, Mosley discusses two reasons to think that affirmative action is morally acceptable, one having to do with history and the other having to do with increasing diversity. He also responds to some reasons to think it isn’t morally acceptable.

*Questions:*

1. Starting from the beginning, up through the first full paragraph on page 127, Mosley lays out a case for the moral acceptability of affirmative action that focuses on history. What is affirmative action? Why Does Mosely think it is morally acceptable? Is what he has to say plausible?
2. Starting with the paragraph starting “Even when it is admitted ...” on page 127 and continuing through the first paragraph on page 129 ending with “... with benefiting themselves” Mosley considers an objection and responds to it. What is the objection? What is his response? Is what he has to say plausible?
3. Starting with the first full paragraph on 129 and continuing to the end of the section on page 130, Mosley considers a second objection. What is the objection? What is his response? Is what he has to say plausible?
4. Starting with the new section on page 133 and continuing through the end of the section on page 136, Mosley considers another rationale for affirmative action, namely increasing diversity. Why do some people think increasing diversity is a good thing? What problem do some people see with this and what is Mosley’s response to it? Is what he has to say plausible?