

## **Aristotle's Virtue Ethics—Study Sheet**

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- A. State the ethical theory known as Aristotle's virtue ethics.

An act is right just in case

- B. How, for Aristotle, are goods associated with goals? Provide an example that helps to make your answer clear.

- C. How, for Aristotle, is *the* ultimate human good associated with *the* ultimate human goal?

- D. What two criteria must the ultimate human goal meet? Explain what each criterion is.

1.

2.

- E. What goal meets the two criteria in D? That is, what is the ultimate human goal?

- F. How, for Aristotle, are *functions* associated with goals? Provide an example that helps to make your answer clear.
- G. What two criteria must be met by the proper function of human beings? Explain what each criterion is.
- 1.
  - 2.
- H. What function meets the two criteria in G? That is, what is the proper function of human beings?
- I. How, for Aristotle, is the proper function of human beings associated with the ultimate human goal?
- J. How, for Aristotle, is acting as we should (i.e. being virtuous) associated with performing the proper function of human beings?
- K. Given your responses in I and J, how is being virtuous associated with achieving the ultimate human goal?

- L. What are the two basic components of being a virtuous person?
- 1.
  - 2.
- M. For Aristotle, which actions are the *right* actions? Provide an example that helps to make your answer clear.
- N. What is the connection between right actions and the ability to reason well?
- O. For Aristotle, what three conditions must an act meet if it is to be performed in the right way?
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

- P. What is the connection between the ability to reason well and performing an act in the right way? (Hint: The connection comes primarily in relation to the third condition in O.)
- Q. What is Aristotle's 'official' definition of *virtue*?
- S. Restate the ethical theory known as Aristotle's virtue ethics, this time taking into account the two basic components of a virtuous person that you mentioned in L.

An act is right just in case