

Tok Areas of Knowledge: Ethics

Ethics

- Is there any real distinction between “morality” and “ethics”? Is ethics concerned primarily with what is or what ought to be?
- In what ways might a moral judgment differ from other judgments?
- Are ethical differences between people the result of holding different sets of values?

Nature of Ethics

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Nature of Ethics

- Does morality necessarily involve action, or can it involve thoughts and attitudes alone?

Nature of Ethics

- How does living a moral life matter?

Nature of Ethics

- In what ways might justifications for moral beliefs be influenced by assumptions about human nature—whether humans are by nature good, evil, or amoral?

Nature of Ethics

- “If you travel with fraud you reach your destination, but are unable to return” (Ghanaian proverb).
- What are the assumptions underlying this quote?
- How possible is it to undo the bad we do?

Nature of Ethics

- “He who wears his morality but has his best garment were better naked” (Kahlil Gibran).
- What are the assumptions underlying this quote?
- Is it necessary to be sincere, if your actions are to be moral?

Nature of Ethics

- In an ethical discussion, must the participants accept rules that go beyond their own particular theoretical frame or position?
- What can be the implications of answering yes or to no to this question?

Nature of Ethics

- Why and how does knowledge matter in ethical conflicts?

Nature of Ethics

- What is the source of sense of right and wrong?
- For moral beliefs, can one distinguish between the source and the justification, or are the two the same?

Ethics: Methods of gaining knowledge and knowledge claims

- What are the justifications for, and implications of, claiming that there are universal standards for morality, or that there are societal standards of morality, or that there are only individual standards of morality?
- Are the three positions mutually exclusive?

Ethics: Methods of gaining knowledge and knowledge claims

- If moral claims are in conflict, does it follow that there is no such justifiable concept as right or wrong?

Ethics: Methods of gaining knowledge and knowledge claims

- Does ambiguity in ethics make it “weak knowledge”?

Ethics: Methods of gaining knowledge and knowledge claims

- Is there a sharp distinction between ethics, etiquette and matters of taste?

Ethics: Methods of gaining knowledge and knowledge claims

- To what extent does the state of a person's knowledge play a part in deciding whether an act is right or wrong?
- Under what conditions would it be legitimate for a person to plead ignorance?
- Are people responsible for finding out as much relevant information as possible?

Ethics and knowledge perspectives

- What knowledge of morality may be gained by focusing attention on the individual making moral judgments?

Ethics: Methods of gaining knowledge and knowledge claims