

Discussion Questions For *Types and Problems of Philosophy*

Mead, Hunter. "Ethics: What Shall We Do Meanwhile?" and "Ethics: But What Is the Highest Good?" In *Types and Problem of Philosophy*, 241-288. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1946.

Chapter XII, Ethics: What Shall We Do Meanwhile?

1. What is value?
2. How does ought come about? (pp. 243-244)
3. What does it mean to say that value is objective? Subjective? In your opinion, which is it? Why? (pp. 246-247)
4. What does it mean to say that value is absolute? Relative? In your opinion, which is it? Why? (pp. 243, 253 ff.)
5. What is intrinsic value? Give an example. (pp. 250-251)
6. What is extrinsic (instrumental) value? Give an example. (p. 258)
7. What is meant by *summum bonum* and what are the qualifications for a *summum bonum*? (pp. 261-262)
8. What is your *summum bonum*?

Chapter XIII, Ethics: But What Is the Highest Good?

1. What is hedonism? What is its *summum bonum*? (p. 263)
2. Distinguish psychological hedonism from ethical hedonism. (p. 264 ff.)
3. What is utilitarianism? (pp. 268-269)
4. What is the difference between a formal (also known as deontological) and a teleological theory of ethics? Give examples of both. (p. 273)
5. What is the doctrine of self-realization? How is it different from and/or similar to various forms of hedonism? (p. 278)
6. What was Aristotle's *summum bonum*? What does that mean? How is that different from Bentham's *summum bonum*? (p. 283)
7. Based on your reading and thinking so far, develop two or three of your own principles or maxims that you could use to think critically about technology.
8. In the previous chapter, Mead asked the question, "What is the Good Life?" (p. 241). What is your answer?
9. In your experience, is technology a means, or an obstacle, to the Good Life? Explain.