

Environmental Midterm Exam Answer Key

Grading scale based on College's scale

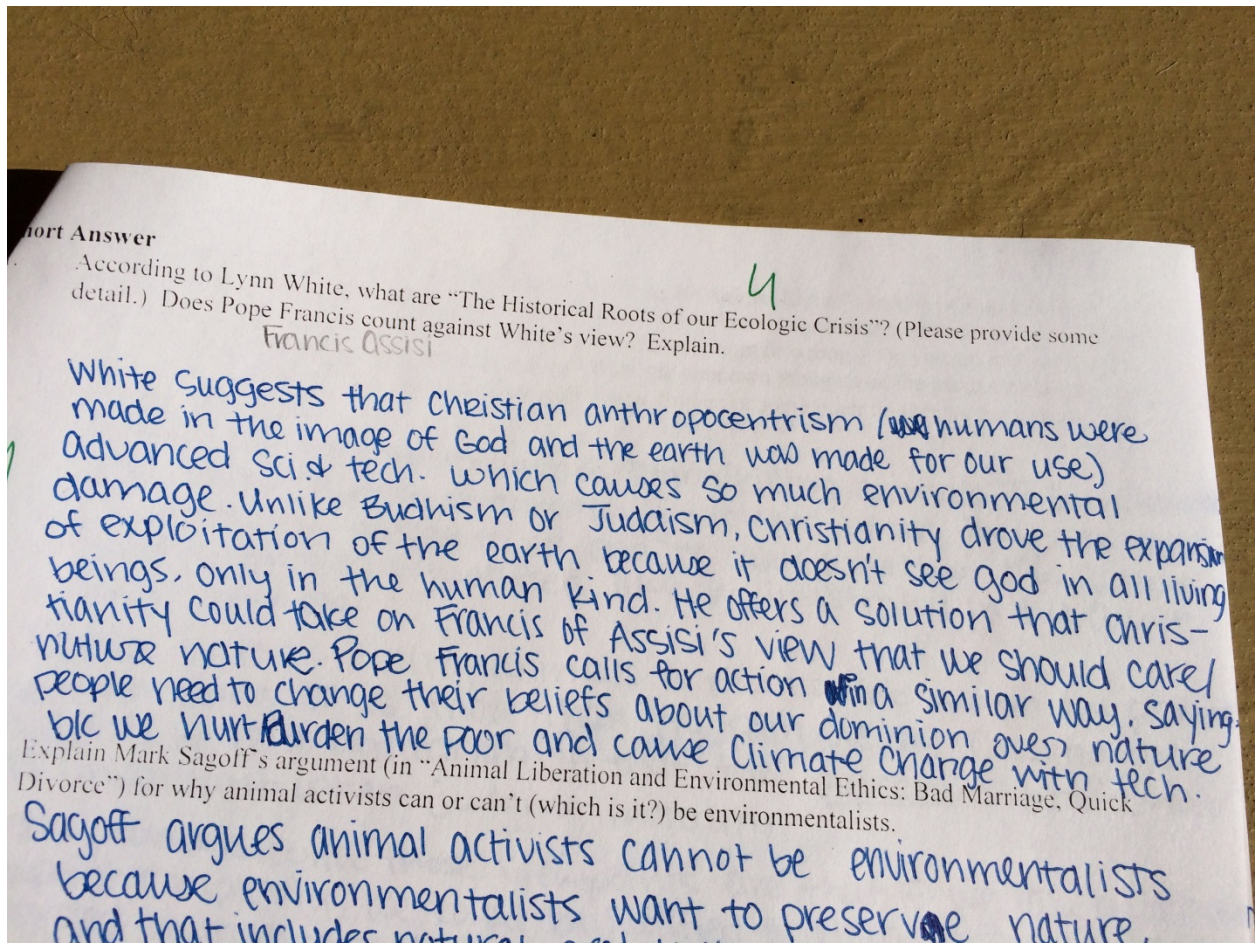
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|----|-----|-------------------------|
| A | 4.0 | 3.85 and higher is an A |
| A- | 3.7 | 3.5 and higher is an A- |
| B+ | 3.3 | 3.15 and higher is a B+ |
| B | 3.0 | 2.85 and higher is a B |
| B- | 2.7 | 2.5 and higher is a B- |
| C+ | 2.3 | 2.15 and higher is a C+ |
| C | 2.0 | 1.85 and higher is a C |
| C- | 1.7 | 1.5 and higher is a C- |
| D+ | 1.3 | 1.15 and higher is a D+ |
| D | 1.0 | .85 and higher is a D |
| D- | 0.7 | .5 and higher is a D- |
| F | 0.0 | |

Overall score: At the top right by your name. Use grading scale to interpret the #. Check my math by adding the numbers on each page and dividing by three (each page was worth the same).

Multiple Choice: I have circled the correct answer in green. Scale was -0=4, -1=3.6, -2=3.1, -3=2.5, -4=1.8, -5=1, -6=.1

Short answer: On the second page, the number at the top is the average of the three grades next to the questions.

Short answer questions and essay examples: See below where I have examples of excellent answers for each.



reside in the advancement of civilization under Christianity. He argues that Christianity removes man from nature and claims these teachings cause the widespread population to perceive and understand the world (nature & environment) as a tool or setting for the progression of humans, rather than ~~seeing~~ seeing humans as a part of nature, instead Christianity teaches people to see themselves apart from nature. This ideological dichotomy is White's claim as the root of our ecologic crisis. This led to modern merge of science and technology which is responsible for much of today's environmental degradation (industrial pollution). Pope Francis obviously stands against this attack against Christianity.

2. Explain Mark Sagoff's argument (in "Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce") for why animal activists can or can't (which is it?) be environmentalists.

Sagoff argues it is the chief concern of animal activists to preserve the well-being of all animals (including wild animals). He says animal activists should feel responsible for reducing the suffering of wild animals inflicted on them by mother-nature (nature = ruthless). He suggests animal activists should try to domesticate wild animals in an effort to give them food and shelter and reduce their suffering. They should warm tiger cubs and nurture baby chicks in an effort to reduce the harsh rate of infant mortality (for lack of a better word...) inflicted by mother-nature. His suggestion of animal activism, in a pure sense, is in stark contrast to the environmentalists' ideology. The environmentalist would seek to preserve the integrity of nature and the environment. They would argue against intervening in the natural order of life and the idea of regulating the forces of nature. This is Sagoff's argument for why animal activism and environmentalism shouldn't be tied together.

He would argue it is our consumerist culture that is responsible and the only solution is a revolution.

3. Define "speciesism" as we did in class and then explain why the following argument is (or is not) speciesist:
Because President Obama cares about his life and has complex plans for his future, it would a greater harm for him to die than for the Obama family dog Bo to die, because Bo does not have complex plans for his future.

"Speciesism" is the moral grounds for making ~~decisions~~ ethical decisions solely on the fact ~~of physical~~ and what species one is. A speciesist utilizes the same frame of thinking because they frame their

contraceptives to limit the population to reduce deaths and suffering.
These are very unenvironmental views because environmentalists want to preserve the natural order.

Define "speciesism" as we did in class and then explain why the following argument is (or is not) speciesist:
Because President Obama cares about his life and has complex plans for his future, it would be a greater harm for him to die than for the Obama family dog Bo to die, because Bo does not have complex plans for his future.

Speciesism is the belief that humans count more than nonhumans because they are human. This argument is not speciesist.

✓ Some characteristics of beings are more important than others and humans have these characteristics while many animals do not. This can include having complex plans for the future. Therefore, Obama's life is more important than Bo's because of this characteristic, NOT ^{simply} because he is human.

4
Essay Compare and contrast the views of Tom Regan ("The Case for Animal Rights") and Peter Singer ("All Animals are Equal") on the permissibility or impermissibility of animal agriculture. (Make sure you explain their views in light of their general ideas about what makes acts right or wrong.) Do you see problems with the views of these two philosophers on this issue? What are your own thoughts on the subject of raising and killing animals for food? Do you agree more with Regan, Singer, or some other thinker we have studied on this subject? Elaborate.

These two thinkers both agree and disagree on the topic of animal agriculture - both agree that animals should be raised humanely and exist happily, but their opinions begin to differ when it comes to the killing of these animals for food. This disagreement stems from their respective ideologies.

Peter Singer is a utilitarianist, meaning he believes right/moral acts are those that increase overall pleasure in the world while reducing pain. In Singer's opinion, it is the interests of the sentient beings (those that can feel pleasure/pain, have wants) that matter. So in regards to animals, which Singer believes are mostly sentient, inhumane treatment of animals is wrong.

While Tom Regan also believes that inhumane treatment of animals is wrong, his ideology is based upon the rights of the animals, not on their interests. Regan believes that all beings experiencing a life (have a welfare they care about, have desires) have ^{rights and} intrinsic value for their own sake, which contrasts greatly with Singer's beliefs. While Singer views animals as a means to an end, Regan believes they are valuable in and of themselves.

This difference in ideology is what affects their opinions on the belief of whether or not animals can be killed for food. Both are adamantly against factory farming. But what if animals lived happy lives and were killed painlessly? According to Singer, this would be permissible for "simple" creatures (moment-to-moment beings, do not see themselves as existing through time) as long as these creatures are replaced - because this would not reduce the overall amount of happiness in the world (as long as these creatures are not self-conscious, b/c then you would be frustrating their future-oriented desires). Regan,

on the other hand, is against all slaughter of animals for food, regardless of if they are killed painlessly or not, because he believes sentient animals are intrinsically valuable and therefore should not be treated as means to an end.

My opinion falls closer to Singer's. As a vegetarian myself, I believe in the humane treatment of animals - but, I would not be opposed to eating a chicken if I know it lived a happy life and died a painless death - this just isn't something I can be sure of with the way our supermarkets work. Like Singer, I place a greater importance of the interests of self-conscious beings over simple beings - I would never eat a pig regardless of whether or not it was killed painlessly, because I value pig's intelligence and capacity for emotion. I also believe, like Regan, that animals are valuable in and of themselves, but my opinions are not as extreme as Regan's.