Sample Essay Questions for Final Exam

1) What do you think of the deep ecologists contentions that our environmental problems are caused by our being too individualistic? By our reductionism? By our consumerism?

2) Do you think that non-human animals have interests? Does this mean that they also have rights? Explain.

3) Do you think that it is morally permissible to use animals in experiments? If so, do you have any conditions you would set on the experiments in terms of type of animal, purpose of the experiments, or conduct of the experiment?

4) Are there any circumstances in which you would allow yourself to be cloned? Why or why not?

5) Under what conditions, if you can imagine any, would you think it appropriate or morally permissible to use a genetic therapy?

6) Do you think that the principle of last resort is helpful? Is there not always one more thing that could be tried?

7) If the principle of discrimination is valid, would the fire bombing of Dresden or the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima in World War II be justified? Explain.

8) What do you think of pacifism? Which is the strongest argument for it and which the strongest argument against it?

9) Leiser and Sterba take different views on the case for our current conflict in Iraq, which they term “Iraq War II.” Which author's arguments do you find more convincing, and why?

10) Given the arguments forwarded by Coady, do you think it is ever possible for a “terrorist” act to be justified? If so, why? If not, what differentiates “terrorist” acts from “legitimate” acts of war such as the fire-bombing of Dresden during WW II or the Naval Blockade of Germany during WW I. Explain.