

1. Briefly explain the historical context of Kantianism, including the legacy of the ancient Greeks. (5 marks)

2. Summarise the argument Kant advances in his essay, *What is Enlightenment?* (1784)

3. To what extent, if any, do you agree with Kant's argument? Justify your view.



Immanuel Kant

What is Kantianism?

- Snapshot of his legacy
- His chief texts on ethics

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Key features of Kantianism

For many who have never
heard of philosophy, let
alone Kant, morality is
roughly what Kant said it
was



Alasdair
MacIntyre
1966

That is, system of rules
that one must follow from a
sense of duty, regardless of
one's wants or desires

James
Rachels
1986



Summarise the view of
MacIntyre (1966) and
Rachels (1986)

Kant's books on ethics

Groundwork for the
Metaphysics of Morals (1785)

Critique of Practical Reason
(1788)

Metaphysics of Morals (1797)

Groundwork for the *Metaphysics of Morals*

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graph TD; A[Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals] --> B[Theoretical]; A --> C[System of synthetic a priori principles]; C --> D[a priori v a posteriori]; C --> E[synthetic v analytic];
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Theoretical

System of **synthetic**
a priori principles

a priori v
a posteriori

synthetic v
analytic

Critique of Practical Reason

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graph TD; A[Critique of Practical Reason] --> B[analysis]; A --> C["ought, not is"]; B --> D["Pure practical reason"]; C --> E["Pre-empirical; non-empirical"];
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analysis

ought, not is

Pure practical
reason

Pre-empirical;
non-empirical

Review

1. What did MacIntyre and Rachels assert about Kantianism?
2. What are the names of Kant's three chief books on ethics?
3. What, for Kant, was metaphysics?
4. What is pure practical reason?