

Key words

- **synthetic** (not analytic)
- **a priori** (not a posteriori)
- **universal** (not general)
- **absolute** (not relative or contingent)
- **apodeictic** (necessary so binding)
- **autonomous** (not heteronomous)
- **objective** (not subjective)
- **rational** (not empirical)

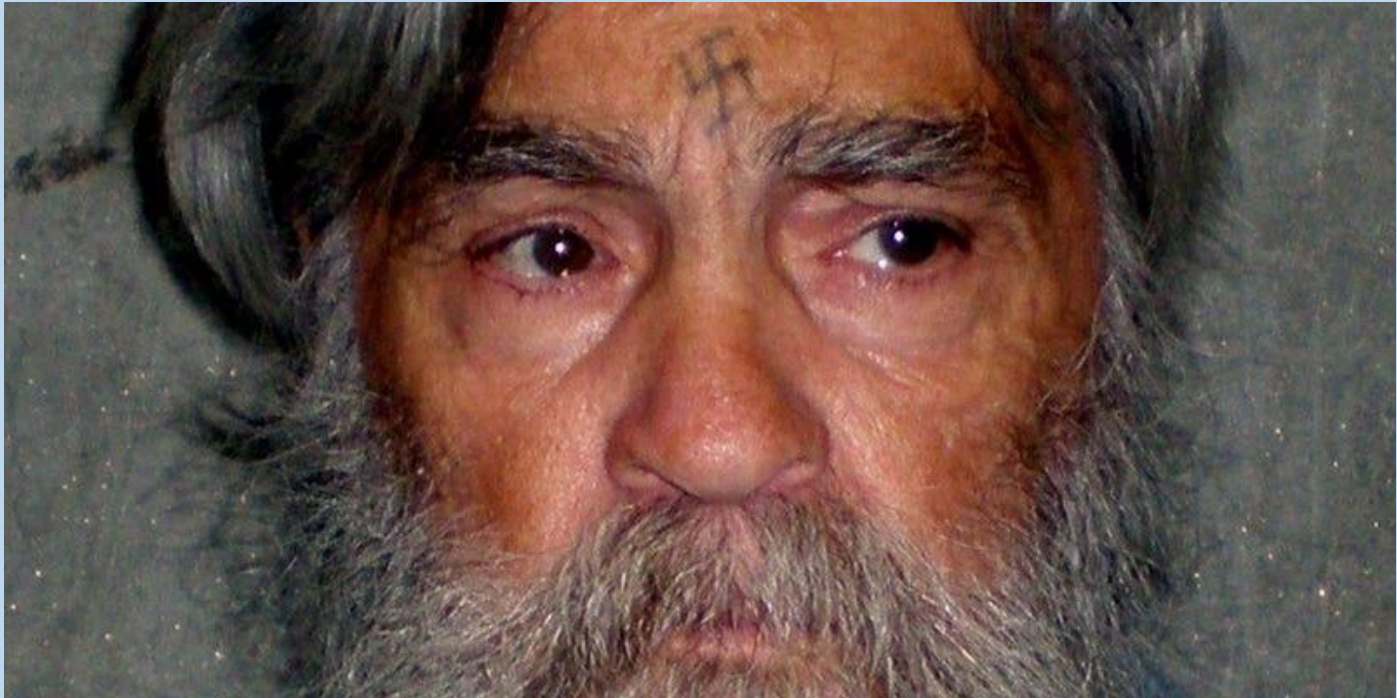
Explain why Kant
thinks that the moral
law is grounded in the
two core
Enlightenment values
of human **autonomy**
and **reason**.



**“Running is good for
your bones”**



**“Smoking is cause of
death”**



**"Charles Manson was a
mass murderer"**



**“You ought to run
for 1 hour a day”**



“You ought not to smoke”



“You ought not to kill”



What is a hypothetical imperative?

Desire-based or instrumental practical rationality

07 November 2024

The hypothetical imperative

Starter: What does the word 'imperative' mean?

An imperative is...

- Always expressed by an **'ought'** (§413)
- A command of **'reason'** (§413)
- Represents itself to a **subjective, imperfectly rational will** (§413)

(You ought to)
take medicine X
three times
daily

My example

(You ought to)
study for three
hours per night

My example

(You ought to)
fly Ryan Air to
Berlin

My example

(You ought to)
drink **at least**
three cups of
White Tea per
day

My example

Hypothetical imperatives

Rachels (1986)
example 1 - p. 120

1

'If you want to become a better chess player, you ought to study the games of Garry Kasparov.'

Hypothetical imperatives

Rachels (1986)
example 2 - p. 120

2

'If you want to go to law school, you ought to sign up for law school'

Empirical, a posteriori dimension

Read the Graham (2004)
extract and explain the
empirical rationality of
the hypothetical
imperative

Assertorical Hypothetical Imperative

- Based on a **common** desire
- You ought not to smoke
- You ought to get a good job
- e.g. desire to be **healthy**, desire to be **happy**
- Graham (2004): usually considered 'knock down arguments'
- **But** still based on desire

So, for a hypothetical imperative to be binding, what two **conditions** need to be fulfilled)?

The two **necessary conditions** of the hypothetical imperative

David Hume

(1739/40)



Reason is the
slave of the
passions

**Explain Kant's
concept of the
hypothetical
imperative (5
marks)**