

Contents

Preface 9

PART ONE: THE STATUS OF ETHICS

1 The Subjectivity of Values

1 *Moral scepticism* 15

2 *Subjectivism* 17

3 *The multiplicity of second order questions* 19

4 *Is objectivity a real issue?* 20

5 *Standards of evaluation* 25

6 *Hypothetical and categorical imperatives* 27

7 *The claim to objectivity* 30

8 *The argument from relativity* 36

9 *The argument from queerness* 38

10 *Patterns of objectification* 42

11 *The general goal of human life* 46

12 *Conclusion* 48

2 The Meaning of 'Good'

1 *The general meaning of 'good'* 50

2 *'Good' in moral contexts* 59

3 Obligations and Reasons

1 *'Is' and 'ought'* 64

2 *The meaning of 'ought'* 73

3 *Varieties of reason* 77

4 *Institutions* 80

CONTENTS

4 Universalization

- 1 *The first stage of universalization: the irrelevance of numerical differences* 83
- 2 *The second stage of universalization: putting oneself in the other person's place* 90
- 3 *The third stage of universalization: taking account of different tastes and rival ideals* 92
- 4 *Subjective elements in universalization* 97

PART TWO: THE CONTENT OF ETHICS

5 The Object of Morality

- 1 *Consequences of moral scepticism* 105
- 2 *A device for counteracting limited sympathies* 107
- 3 *The form of the device* 111
- 4 *Game theory analysis* 115
- 5 *The content of the device: conservatism or reform?* 120

6 Utilitarianism

- 1 *Act utilitarianism* 125
- 2 *The ethics of fantasy* 129
- 3 *Morality in the narrow sense* 134
- 4 *Rule utilitarianism* 136
- 5 *The 'proof' of utility* 140
- 6 *Utility as desire-satisfaction* 145
- 7 *The malleability of morality* 146

7 Consequentialism and Deontology

- 1 *Conceptions of the good* 149
- 2 *The rationale of universalization* 151
- 3 *The need for secondary principles* 154
- 4 *Special relationships and the form of moral principles* 157
- 5 *Ends and means* 159
- 6 *Absolutism and the principle of double effect* 160

8 Elements of a Practical Morality

- 1 *The good for man* 169
- 2 *Egoism, rights, and property* 172
- 3 *Liberty* 180
- 4 *Truth-telling, lies, and agreements* 182
- 5 *How princes should keep faith* 184
- 6 *Virtue* 186
- 7 *The motive for morality* 189
- 8 *Extensions of morality* 193
- 9 *The right to life* 195
- 10 *Conclusion* 199

PART THREE: FRONTIERS OF ETHICS

9 Determinism, Responsibility, and Choice

- 1 *Voluntary or intentional actions* 203
- 2 *The straight rule of responsibility* 208
- 3 *Causal determinism and human action* 215
- 4 *Hard and soft determinism* 220

10 Religion, Law, and Politics

- 1 *The theological frontier of ethics* 227
- 2 *Contacts and overlaps between morality and law* 232
- 3 *Political applications and extensions of morality* 235

Notes and References 241

Index 247