

How to Interpret Your Rubric Grades

Ethical Issue Recognition: The first question asks you to identify the moral issue in Father Altman's video. If you can boil down his basic rationale, that tells me that you comprehend the ethical issue. This information, below, is in **blue highlight**. Also, the last question asks you to give your opinion, which tells me more about how well you understand the issue.

Application of Ethical Perspectives/Concepts: When I ask a concept question, I look to see that you have given a basic definition of the concept. This tells me that you know where to find the information, and that you have defined it properly. Below, I put this part of the answer **in yellow highlight**. Secondly, I then look to see that you have used the definition to answer the question, and that you've done it, ahem, rationally; that is, you've made an argument that a reasonable person can follow. This information is in **green highlight**.

The extent to which you fully address and answer the question determines your **Thoroughness of Response** score.

If your answers are clear and concise, your **Organization** score will be higher.

I'm pretty sure you know what the **English Mechanics** score means.

1. What is Father Altman's moral rationale for voting Republican in November? **Currently, US politics and its educational system is godless, and they (Democrats) promote godless practices (like abortion...and somehow, Marxism). Therefore, people do not fulfil God's purpose in life when they vote Democratic. They will burn in hell if they choose the Democratic party.**
2. Is Fr. Altman a realist or some kind of relativist? How do you know? **Realism is the position that there are mind-independent facts about ethics that are true and binding even if we have beliefs to the contrary. Father Altman's claim about God's purpose (and consequences) for people is universal, whether people like it or not, so it's a realist belief.**
3. How does Fr. Altman fit Divine Command Theory into his assertion that "politics is a moral enterprise"? **Divine Command Theory: morality is somehow dependent upon God, and that moral obligation consists in obedience to God's commands. Divine Command Theory includes the claim that morality is ultimately based on the commands or character of God, and that the morally right action is the one that God commands or requires. Father Altman says that people will go to hell if they vote for the godless, baby-killing democrats, because it is against god's will, and that Catholics need to stand up when they see moral violations. Politics SHOULD be a moral enterprise, even though it's not.**
4. How might Thomas Aquinas (via his Natural Law Theory) react to Fr. Altman's contention that "You can't be a Catholic and be a Democrat"? **Aquinas would say that god pre-loaded us with tools we need to know what's good. We don't need the church to understand the natural law. Killing babies does not promote life, so it goes against natural law. I guess this means**

that a Catholic would agree with Fr. Altman, but doesn't not necessarily need to listen to him to come to the same decision about being a Democrat.

5. Do the Ten Commandments support Father Altman's ethical stance? Yes. **Thou shalt not kill** is mandated, and Democrats support abortion, so **one should not vote for democrats if one wants to be a good Christian.**
6. Do the ethical teachings of Jesus (New Testament) support Father Altman's argument that "I don't love anyone in Borneo, so I do not have any inclination to serve anyone in Borneo"? **Many examples in the New Testament of loving thy neighbor** (everyone), and **serving the lord by serving others,** **so not really.**
7. **How do your own ethical assumptions support or refute Fr. Altman's theses?**