

“Of what sort of proof the principle of utility is susceptible”

Here are some questions to think about before next week’s discussion. In addition to having some thoughts on these, please also come equipped with at least ONE question of your own about the paper. This can be a clarificatory question or a more general one.

1. “In like manner, I apprehend, the sole evidence it is possible to produce that anything is desirable, is that people actually do desire it.” Do you agree?
2. What does it mean for something to be a “good in itself”?
3. Do you agree with Mill’s characterisation of virtue as having been “originally a means”? Is the analogy to love of money an appropriate one?
4. Is happiness the only good-in-itself for Mill? Can there be others under his utilitarianism?
5. What is the distinction between will and desire? Why is it important?
6. Of what sort of proof *is* the utility principle susceptible?