

God, Good Worlds, and the Simulation Hypothesis

Paired Group Work

Grade Type: Classwork

Due Date: Friday, November 8th

Instructions: Separate into pairs (you may also elect to work by yourself). Using your iPad, import this document into Goodnotes (so that you can write on it). With the rest of the class, answer questions 1 and 2 on the specified pages (see table of contents). Then, answer the remaining questions on the specified pages (see table of contents). Give your answers on this document.

Each question's answer must be explained in significant detail. Answers that are not well explained will lose points. If you are unclear what a good detailed answer/explanation would look for a question, ask about it. If you would like to do some research in order to help answer the questions, you may do so. Each member of the group must submit a PDF of the completed classwork to Archie.

Group Member Names:

Table of Contents:

- Page 1: Title page on Table of Contents
- Page 2: Questions 1-2
- Page 3: Questions 3-6
- Page 4: Question 7
- Page 5: Question 8
- Page 6: Question 9

Page 1: Title page and Table of Contents

Page 2: Questions 1-2

1. Explain the Simulation Hypothesis.
2. What is an argument in favor of the conclusion that we are living in a simulation?

Page 3: Questions 3-6

3. In general, do you think increasing someone's power makes them more or less morally good? What about you? Explain your answers in detail.
4. In general, do you think increasing someone's knowledge makes them more or less morally good? What about you? Explain your answers in detail.
5. Compare and contrast the Simulation Hypothesis with the theory that God created the universe. Explain your answer in detail.
6. "We can learn important information about a creator by understanding what they create." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer in detail.

Page 4: Question 7

7. Suppose you had access to a super powerful computer/machine that allowed you to simulate a universe inhabited by intelligent beings. Suppose that you decide to simulate such a universe. Describe in great detail what kind of universe you would simulate and why you would decide to simulate that kind of universe. Include in your answer a detailed discussion of the following questions:
- a. Why did you decide to simulate this kind of universe?
 - b. What can we learn about you from the kind of universe you decide to simulate?
 - c. Would you be morally required to simulate the best universe?
 - d. What kinds of lives would the intelligent beings in your universe live (good/bad; happy/sad; etc.)?
 - e. Would the intelligent beings in your universe believe in god?
 - f. If they believed in God, what kind of God would they think existed? If they didn't believe in God, why wouldn't they?

Page 5: Question 8

8. Write a short story detailing a successful attempt by an intelligent being in your simulated world to contact you. Makes sure your story:
 - a. Has a beginning, middle, and end
 - b. Includes at least one lengthy conversation between the simulated intelligent being and you
 - c. Engages with the themes of the previous questions in this classwork (questions 3-7)

Page 6: Question 9

9. Compose an illustration or cartoon that depicts your short story (from question 8). Be as creative, complete, and detailed with this as possible.