

Name: _____
Period: _____

Moral Relativism Notes

Moral Relativism: Position that there are no universally valid moral principles and that all moral principles are valid relative to culture or individual choice.

In your own words: _____

Ethical Relativism: _____

Cultural Relativism: _____

Diversity Thesis: an anthropological thesis acknowledging that moral principles vary from culture to culture

Dependency Thesis: _____

Strong: _____

Weak: The application of moral principles depends on the particular cultural situation

Subjectivism: _____

6 claims made by the Cultural Relativist:

1. Different societies have different moral codes.
2. _____
3. The moral code of our own society has no special status; it is merely one among many
4. _____
5. The moral code of a society determines what is right within that society; that is, if the moral code of a society says that a certain action is right, then that action *is* right, at least within that society.
6. _____

Do you support the concept of moral relativism?

What do you find attractive in the concept of moral relativism?

What concerns do you have with moral relativism?

Do you think that there are any universally valid moral principles? If so, what are they? If not, why not?

Explain the difference of holding a “strong” or “weak” thesis of dependency and why this distinction is important in cultural relativism.
