

Reading 3: Happiness Chapter 5 & 6

If you want to truly answer your essay coursework assessment, then this book by Richard Layard is very useful – hence you get two chapters this week rather than one! Before these chapters, Layard has surveyed whether we are becoming happier or not, and whether money makes you happy – and if not, why not. I have removed the page number hints from the easier questions – though for now the questions are still in the order of the text so they are still easy to find.

1. Easier Questions:

Q1.1: How much of our happiness comes from our genetics?

Q1.2: How much of our happiness comes from how we were raised as babies?

Q1.3: How much of our happiness comes from whether our family broke up or not while we were children?

Q1.4: What doesn't affect our happiness?

Q1.5: What are the big seven factors affecting our happiness?

Q1.6: What were the three worst factors damaging our happiness?

Q1.7: Why is unemployment particularly bad for happiness?

Q1.8: Why is poor health not as bad for your happiness as unemployment?

Q1.9: What is the relationship between belief in God and happiness?

Q1.10: What did the great 20th century Economist John Maynard Keynes and one of the most important Philosophers of the 20th century Bertrand Russell think was the biggest danger for humans?

Q1.11: What happened when the King of Bhutan allowed television into his kingdom?

Q1.12: Why did women taking jobs affect the divorce rate?

Q1.13: Why is there a relationship between television and aggression in children?

Q1.14: What kind of relationship exists between television and satisfaction with one's personal possessions?

Q1.15: Are men happier with their wives after they have watched television?

2. Harder Questions:

Q2.1: Do you think that unemployment causes loss of happiness, or it is simply that unhappy people tend to become unemployed?

Q2.2: What is the relationship between serving a greater cause than oneself and one's happiness?

Q2.3: Why do you think that television has replaced socialisation with others?

Q2.4: Why is the rise of equal human rights linked with the Economic theory that if everyone is completely selfish, the best result emerges for society?

3. Really Hard Questions (just for any of you who find this course too easy! I don't expect anyone to answer these):

Q3.1: What is the epistemology of happiness? How do you know that you know that you are happy or unhappy? How do you know whether your opinion of your happiness is truth or falsehood?