

## Free Will

### Part II: free will and moral responsibility

#### I. Reading

##### (A) Primary Readings

Read the following two papers:

- Frankfurt, H., '**Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility**', *Journal of Philosophy* 66 (1969), pp. 829-839. Reprinted in Watson (ed.). (but only in the second edition).
- Strawson, P.F., '**Freedom and Resentment**', Watson (ed.).

##### (B) Background readings

(Again – these are not compulsory, but may be extremely helpful).

- Kaine, R., *A Contemporary Introduction to Free Will*, chapter **8, 10**.
- Bennet, J., 'Accountability', by in van Straaten, Z. (ed.) *Philosophical Subjects*, Clarendon Press (1980). [This could help particularly with Strawson's paper].
- Watson, G., 'Introduction' in Watson, G.(ed.), *Free Will*, OUP (1982).

#### II. Writing

Complete both of the following tasks:

**Task 1:** Pick **one** of the primary readings, and complete a reading assignment with respect to it. (See separate instructions).

**Task 2:** Write an essay on one of the following topics:

- (1) Consider the debate about whether or not free will is compatible with determinism. Is the outcome of this debate important to the question of whether we are morally responsible for our actions?
- (2) Some cases of coercion or uncontrollable action are standardly taken to be good grounds for claiming that someone is not morally responsible for their actions. Is there any tenable way to distinguish between these cases and cases where determinism fixes the courses of our actions?