James Rachels, The Elements of Moral Philosophy

Chapter 4.

a.) Explain the Divine Command Theory.

b.) What are the two strengths of this theory Rachels describes?

c.) What are the serious problems with this theory?

d.) Explain the problem Socrates raises with Divine Command theory.

e.) Explain the Theory of Natural Law.

f.) Which Catholic theologian-philosopher is most associated with it?

g.) From which Greek philosopher does 4f derive the Theory of Natural Law?

h.) What is David Hume's criticism of this theory?

i.) What is the second criticism of this theory which Rachels describes?

j.) How does the third part of the Theory of Natural Law allow believers and non-

believers to "inhabit the same moral universe"?

k.) What was St. Thomas Aquinas' position on abortion?