Dworkin

* Explain what is meant by a policy that is endowment insensitive and ambition sensitive?

Effort should be rewarded. If you chose to work harder you should be paid more. In other words inequalities due to free choice are just and people should be hold responsible for their own choices. Assume two people; Arild is lacy and return from work at 4 pm every day because he wants to watch television rather than work overtime. Ida on the other hand stays at work until 6 pm every day because she wants to earn some extra money. In this case inequality in income between Arild and Ida is fair. But this strongly depends on that they both have the opportunity/resources to work hard.

On the other hand inequalities due to differences in the endowment of internal or external resources are unjust. These none chosen circumstances will probably affect your choice and it is no longer free. If Arild needs to go home because he has a chronic illness which make him unable to work as many hours as Ida differences in their income is not fair. An example of an external resource could be inheritance. It is not fair according to Dworkin if Ida earn more than Arild because she inherited shares in the company they work in.

* Brute luck and option luck

Brute luck is not chosen and should be fully compensated. Example if I`m hit by a falling meteorite whose course could not have been predicted, then my bad luck is brute.

Option luck on the other hand is about how deliberated and calculated games turn out. It is something you choose to be part of and you are aware of the risk involved. For example if you buy a stock and it increase you may say that your option luck is good.

It is difficult to distinguish between brute and option luck. Assume Ida and Arild both get cancer. Ida has lived a healthy normal life and has stayed away from the typical risk associated with cancer. Arild on the other hand has smoked a lot and has had a very unhealthy live style. It may be correct to say that he took an unsuccessful gamble and that his bad luck is “option” not “brutal”. Ida did everything she could to prevent the disease and her bad luck is therefore “brutal”.

1. The capability approach

* What is the difference between capability and functioning?

A functioning is something you practice while a capability is something you need in order to generate valuable functionings. Capability is about what you can do with the resources you are endowed with. There is no point of having a book if you cannot read. To evaluate a person`s capability you need to take personal characteristics and external factors into account. Some people may need more resources to have the same possibilities as others.

Give an example of functioning and the corresponding capability?

* To be able to participate in the society you need to know how to communicate with others.
* To attend a birthday party you need to be able to buy fancy clothes.
* To be able to participate in sports you need to be healthy and well nourished.
* To feel happy you need to be able to escape from situations that damage your happiness.

Marta Nussbaum proposes a list of important capabilities. Do you agree with this list? Would you remove some and introduce others? Can you suggest which policies would promote one or more of them?

Examples of policies:

* Children must attend primary school. This means that their ability to participate in the society is strengthened.
* Free access to medical care makes us more able to love to the end of a human life of normal length.