

Philosophy 3334 Fall 2023  
Reading questions #16  
Due Thu, Nov 30

1) Read Harden chapter 9. Children tend to be like their parents in lots of ways – for example, in educational attainment and in physical traits like body mass index. This could be because parents shape the environment that their kids are raised in, or it could be because they are passing certain genes on to their children. Harden describes a type of experiment designed to separate out those two possible explanations. What are the results in the case of educational attainment and BMI?

2) Read Harden chapter 10. It might be natural to think that when we hear about genetic influences on behavior, this affects whether or not we judge that someone is morally responsible for their actions (whether they are praiseworthy or blameworthy for example). But Harden thinks that this gets the relationship backwards. Why does she think this?

3) After reading the chapters, come up with a question that you want answered or a topic that you would like to be discussed. This could be something that the chapters forced you think about or it could be something that you thought was particularly confusing in the chapters.