A. Consider each of the following passages. Determine if the passage contains a definition. If it contains a definition, indicate whether the type of the definition is extensional or intensional. If the definition is intensional, indicate whether it is a dictionary definition or a technical definition. If it is a technical definition, indicate whether it is being used for convenience, a new thing, greater precision, or for a theory. Note that a passage may contain more than one definition.

1. This Dr. Pepper is cold.
   No definition.

2. A magazine is a periodical containing miscellaneous pieces (as articles, stories, poems) and often illustrated.
   Intensional. Dictionary.

3. For the purposes of this document, “magazine” refers only a room in which gun powder is kept in a fort. While there are other uses of this term, clarity requires us to focus on one particular use.

4. ABC is the American Broadcasting Company.

5. A keyboard is an assemblage of systematically arranged keys by which a machine or device is operated.
   Intensional. Dictionary.

6. “You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; but that ain't no matter. That book was made by Mr. Mark Twain, and he told the truth, mainly. There was things which he stretched, but mainly he told the truth. That is nothing. I never seen anybody but lied one time or another, without it was Aunt Polly, or the widow, or maybe Mary. Aunt Polly--Tom's Aunt Polly, she is--and Mary, and the Widow Douglas is all told about in that book, which is mostly a true book, with some stretchers, as I said before.” Mark Twain, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, first paragraph.
   No definition.

7. “The broader question it explores is how exit options are constructed in social contractarian (SC) arguments that seek to justify...a particular division of the social surplus generated by political cooperation.” Barbara Fried, “‘If You Don’t Like It, Leave It’: The Problem of Exit in Social Contractarian Arguments, Philosophy and Public Affairs 31, no. 1, Winter 2003, p.40-70 at 41.
   No definition.

8. “E-mail spam, also known as unsolicited bulk email (UBE) or unsolicited commercial email (UCE), is the practice of sending unwanted e-mail messages, frequently with commercial content, in large quantities to an indiscriminate set of recipients.” Wikipedia article “Spam,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spam_(electronic), December 20, 2007
   Intensional. Dictionary and Technical. The definition of “e-mail spam” is dictionary but the definition of “UBE” and “UCE” are technical used for convenience.

9. “Give me liberty, or give me death!” Patrick Henry.
   No definition.


11. “Punk is musical freedom. It's saying, doing and playing what you want. In Webster's terms, 'nirvana'
means freedom from pain, suffering and the external world, and that's pretty close to my
definition of punk rock.”
Kurt Cobain, from http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/k/kurtcobain167113.html,
December 20, 2007

Intensional. Technical. New thing. (Punk rock was new when Kurt Cobain said this.
12. “The term “firearm” means...any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may
readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.” 18 USC 921. (This
passage is from the United States Code, the official record of the laws of the United States.)
13. “income = wages or salary from work and earnings from investments.” John Macionis, Society: The
No definition.
15. “[Here is] the sense of “harm”...that...is used in the harm principle: only setbacks of interests that are
wrongs, and wrongs that are setbacks to interest, are to count as harms in the appropriate sense.”
Intensional. Technical. Greater precision and theory.

EXERCISES 3.9 (Sections 6-6.5)

A. Consider each of the following passages. Determine if the passage contains a definition. If it contains
a definition, evaluate it using the five criteria discussed in Section 6.
1. Red things are those things that have the quality of redness.
Ambiguity, ok
Vagueness, ok
Correct Extension, ok
Correct Intension, intension is not good because the term “red things” is defined using the term
“redness.” This doesn’t help us pick out the intension of “red.”
Not persuasive, ok
2. A vehicle is a means of transporting something.
Ambiguity, ok
Vagueness, the term “means” is too vague. The border between things that are means and things that are
not is not clear.
Correct Extension, too broad. A horse is a means of transporting things but it isn’t a vehicle.
Correct Intension, not correct. See comment about a horse.
Not persuasive, ok
3. Chicken is the most popular meat in the United States.
No definition.
4. To understand a concept is to grasp that concept.
Ambiguity, ok,
Vagueness, it is not clear what the word “grasp” means. You cannot literally grasp a concept in the way
that you can grasp a baseball bat.
Correct Extension, ok
Correct Intension, not good because of the vagueness of “grasp.”
Not persuasive, ok
5. Buildings are things that are not natural.
Ambiguity, ok
Vagueness, “things” and “natural” are both very vague terms.
Correct Extension, too broad, my toothbrush is not natural but it is not a building.
Correct Intension, incorrect, see toothbrush example
Not persuasive, ok

6. Hazing is any activity that singles out first-years or newcomers.
Ambiguity, ok
Vagueness, the time “activity” is too vague
Correct Extension, too broad, giving a medallion to first-year students singles them out but it isn’t hazing.
Correct Intension, incorrect. See medallion example.
Not persuasive, ok

7. A dragon is a mythical serpent or lizard that is monstrous, winged, fire-breathing, and has a crested head and enormous claws.
Ambiguity, ok
Vagueness, ok
Correct Extension, too narrow. Some dragons don’t have a crest.
Correct Intension, incorrect. See crest example.
Not persuasive, ok

8. A Muslim is one of those insane terrorists.
Ambiguity, ok,
Vagueness, “insane” is too vague.
Correct Extension, too narrow. The vast majority of Muslims are not terrorists.
Correct Intension, incorrect. See comment about extension.
Not persuasive, very persuasive.

Ambiguity, ok
Vagueness, “objective” is a very vague term.
Correct Extension, too narrow. Some observations are not objectively quantifiable. Such as my observation that I love my wife.
Correct Intension, incorrect. See wife example.
Not persuasive, ok

No definition.

Ambiguity
Vagueness
Correct Extension
Correct Intension
Not persuasive

No definition.

14. “Men do not want solely the obedience of women, they want their sentiments. All men, except the most brutish, desire to have, in the woman not nearly connected with them, not a forced slave but a willing one.... They have therefore put everything in practice to enslave their minds.” John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* in John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill, *Essays on Sex Equality*, Alice Rossi, ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970) p. 141. [Mill’s essay was originally published in 1869.]


Ambiguity, ok
Vagueness, ok
Correct Extension, ok
Correct Intension, ok
Not persuasive, ok