

## Reading Assignment 6: Pascal's Wager

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**Assigned Reading** Sections 1-5 of A. Hájek. "Pascal's Wager". In: *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Ed. by E. N. Zalta and U. Nodelman. Summer 2024. Metaphysics Research Lab, Stanford University, 2024

**Technical Requirements**

Answer questions two, three, four, six, and seven below. Together, your answers should not be longer than a single typed page. Remember to provide page numbers indicating which passages you are paraphrasing. For the remaining optional questions, please write down the page numbers on which the authors address the question.

1. How does Pascal's argument differ from previous "proofs" of God's existence?
2. Devise a decision table containing two actions and three states in which one action *superdominates* the other. If one action superdominates another, must the expected utility of the first action be greater than the second? Hint: To answer the second question, it might help to finish reading Hájek's analysis of Pascal's first wager.
3. In no more than a paragraph, summarize Pascal's *third* wager in your own words.
4. Pick one of the objections to Premise 1 of Pascal's third wager, and summarize it in your own words.
5. Pick one of the objections to Premise 2 of Pascal's third wager, and summarize it in your own words.
6. In discussing objections to Premise 3 of Pascal's argument, Hájek says, "one might distinguish between practical rationality and theoretical rationality." How could that distinction be of use in criticizing Pascal's third wager?
7. Explain the mixed strategies objection to Pascal's wager. Then explain Mouton and Easwaran's response.