

Chapter 1: The Importance of Ethics in Criminal Justice

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. The field of ethics is also known as _____.

- a. moral philosophy
- b. moralography
- c. post-modernism
- d. moralology

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Meaning of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Ethics involves making judgments about _____.

- a. how to live a “good” life
- b. what “good” means
- c. what is absolute truth
- d. what is right or wrong

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Meaning of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. What type of ethics is concerned with methods, language, and logical structure?

- a. metaethics
- b. normative ethics
- c. applied ethics
- d. method ethics

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Meaning of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. The branch of ethics concerned with the question of what “good” means is _____.

- a. normative ethics
- b. metaethics
- c. applied ethics
- d. philosophy

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Meaning of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Normative ethics is a form of ethics devised to assist in _____.

- a. deciding which system of ethics is best
- b. making decisions about the proper behavior
- c. deciding what is good or right in the abstract
- d. deciding which government or agency policies are best

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Meaning of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Among the reasons commonly given for studying ethics, which of the following are NOT mentioned?

- a. It is crucial that ethical decisions are made, and the study of ethics enables the development of tools that enhance ethical decision-making.
- b. It is important to have the capacity to point to moral reasoning in justifying behavior, and the study of ethics develops that capacity.
- c. The study of ethics increases sensitivity to issues of right and wrong and the right way to conduct oneself, and aids in identifying acts that have a moral content.
- d. all of these

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Value of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. The study of ethics is especially important in criminal justice because _____.

- a. unethical behavior is more rampant in criminal justice than other fields
- b. ethics is not studied at police academies
- c. CJ professionals have historically ignored ethics in their decision making
- d. the potential of abuse of discretion and the powers of arrest and use of force society grants to law enforcement personnel

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Value of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. The central notion to _____ is that one's conduct must take into account moral issues.

- a. metaethics
- b. normative ethics
- c. applied ethics
- d. method ethics

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Normative Ethics

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Ethical relativism assumes that _____.

- a. all issues are related
- b. what is right or ethical may vary from person to person or culture to culture
- c. answers to ethical questions are relative to the etiology of the problem
- d. all people on the planet are related to each other in a symbiotic relationship

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Ethical Relativism

Difficulty Level: Hard

10. According to Holmes (1998), which of the following agree that there is moral right and wrong but contend what is right for one, may be wrong for another?

- a. ethical relativism
- b. cultural relativism
- c. extreme or individual relativism
- d. ethical absolutism

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Relativism

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Proponents of which ethical theory argue that every society has a different moral code that explains which acts are permitted or not?

- a. ethical relativism
- b. cultural relativism
- c. extreme or individual relativism
- d. ethical absolutism

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Cultural Relativism

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Which of the following is a major problem with cultural relativism?

- a. It provides answers to issues and spurs debate.
- b. It operates as a moral isolationism.
- c. Values of different historical periods are valid throughout time.

d. Cultures are totally isolated from one another.

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Cultural Relativism

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. Ethical absolutism assumes that _____.

a. there is an eternal, unchanging moral law that applies everywhere to everyone

b. there are absolutely no moral universals

c. there are many possible ethical truths

d. no set of moral rules is absolutely true in all times and all places

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Absolutism

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. Which of the following is considered valid regardless of the thought and feeling?

a. ethical relativism

b. cultural relativism

c. extreme or individual relativism

d. ethical absolutism

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Absolutism

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Which of the following teaches the value of an open mind, of tolerance, and understanding?

- a. ethical relativism
- b. cultural relativism
- c. extreme or individual relativism
- d. ethical absolutism

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Absolutism

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Ethical pluralism argues that in most situations _____.

- a. there are a lot of alternatives but only one can be correct
- b. the principle with which the greatest number of people agree is the correct principle
- c. there are many truths rather than a single truth
- d. ethical absolutism applies only when there are a large number of ethical options

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. The principles of understanding, tolerance, standing up and fallibility are all parts of the theory of ethical _____.

- a. relativism
- b. pluralism

c. absolutism

d. exoneration

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Medium

18. The principle of understanding requires that we _____.

a. appreciate the meaning of ethical standards in other cultures from the perspective of those cultures

b. accept the existence of differences but deny diversity in ethical standards

c. be prepared to stand up against moral wrongdoing by creating more laws

d. be prepared to learn from other cultures yet have our own moral codes

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Medium

19. According to Hinman (1998), under which principle should people be prepared to stand up to what he calls “egregious moral wrongdoing”?

a. the principle of understanding

b. the principle of tolerance

c. the principle of standing up against evil

d. the principle of fallibility

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Medium

20. The author of the text suggests that supporting and upholding the execution of persons 16 or younger violates the principle of _____.

- a. relativism
- b. absolutism
- c. fallibility
- d. tolerance

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Medium

21. Kane (1996) argues for an approach that emphasizes ethical pluralism that does not imply indifference. He calls this approach _____.

- a. closeness
- b. openness
- c. correctness
- d. demonstrative

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Medium

22. Which of the following does not reflect the views of an ethical pluralist?

- a. There is no possibility that there are moral absolutes.
- b. We can learn from the morality of other societies.
- c. We must accept the fact that there are differences in the morality of different societies.
- d. We should be willing to have our own society's shortcomings exposed.

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Medium

23. Which famous philosopher discussed the issue of whether divine command theory was concerned with power of the Gods to command?

- a. Plato
- b. Aristotle
- c. Socrates
- d. Euripides

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Religion and Ethical Standards

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. Divine Command Theory argues that _____.

- a. religion is the only basis one should use to make moral decisions
- b. natural law and religion command that individuals do the right thing
- c. what is morally right is what God directs, and conversely, what is morally wrong is what God prohibits

d. we are unable to be critical thinkers if we do not value religion

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conduct Is Right Because God Commands It

Difficulty Level: Medium

25. Which of the following beliefs do not reflect of a divine command theory believer?

- a. Ethical standards of conduct are derived from the interpretation of religion.
- b. Divine commands will necessarily have to be drawn from a variety of religious texts.
- c. The divine commands right conduct because it is right.
- d. Divine commands are those that arise from superstition.

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: God Commands Right Conduct Because It Is Right

Difficulty Level: Hard

26. The idea of natural law is _____.

- a. almost identical to religious law
- b. we can identify some factors that are common to our human nature
- c. that a behavior is natural because God commands it
- d. God commands a law because it is natural

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethics and Natural Law

Difficulty Level: Medium

27. Natural laws are said to _____.

- a. govern human behavior
- b. incorporate human nature and goals humans naturally seek
- c. represent a search for moral absolutes
- d. all of these

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethics and Natural Law

Difficulty Level: Medium

28. Steffen (2012) argued a proposal to bridge the gap between ethical _____.

- a. relativism and ethical absolutism
- b. absolutism and lived experience
- c. theory and lived experiences
- d. theory and classism

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethics and Natural Law

Difficulty Level: Medium

29. Legislation, statutes, and regulations made by governments are known as _____.

- a. natural law
- b. relative ethics
- c. law

d. metaethics

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethics and Law

Difficulty Level: Medium

30. _____ laws conflict with ethical standards.

a. Always

b. Never

c. Maybe

d. Sometimes

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethics and Law

Difficulty Level: Medium

31. An ethical dilemma can arise when a person _____.

a. is faced with choices that involve conflicting ethical principles

b. knowingly decides to violate the clearly applicable ethical principle

c. is punished for making an ethical decision

d. cannot determine which ethical principles apply

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Medium

32. The difference between an ethical dilemma and an ethical issue is that the _____.

- a. former is more important than the latter
- b. latter involves a public policy question
- c. latter involves questions of individual ethical conduct
- d. former involves conflicting principles, while the latter does not

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Medium

33. An example of a prosecutorial ethical situation discussed in the chapter is when they decide to _____.

- a. seek the death penalty in the case instead of life imprisonment
- b. seek the maximum penalty under three-strikes legislation
- c. withhold evidence from the defense
- d. put a witness on the stand they know is lying

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Medium

34. Ethical issues _____.

- a. do not require individual decision making beyond the decision of whether one is in favor of, or opposed to, a particular social issue

- b. do not require most individuals to decide the issue does not mean an individual is helpless to influence public debate on a social issue
- c. are usually an issue of public policy
- d. all of these

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Medium

35. Which of the following is the first of the six recommended steps in solving an ethical dilemma?

- a. identifying available options
- b. collecting all relevant facts
- c. identifying the fact that one is faced with an ethical dilemma and clearly stating it
- d. identifying relevant personal values

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Medium

36. Hare (1987) argues moral judgments must be able to be applied _____.

- a. differently
- b. universally
- c. continuously
- d. sparingly

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge | Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Hard

37. Personal values are _____.

- a. what is good or right in the abstract
- b. deciding which government or agency policies are best
- c. what individuals care about and what they think is important
- d. deciding which system of ethics is best

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Medium

38. Using institutional time and materials for personal gain unrelated to legitimate work activity is an example of an ethical problem in _____.

- a. the use of authority
- b. the relationship between personal and professional interests
- c. personal and professional commitments to clients
- d. criminal justice and public policy

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Problems in the Relationship Between Personal and Professional Interests

Difficulty Level: Medium

39. Capital punishment is an example of an ethical problem in _____.

- a. the use of authority
- b. the relationship between personal and professional interests
- c. personal and professional commitments to clients
- d. criminal justice and public policy

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice and Public Policy

Difficulty Level: Medium

40. Truth in sentencing policies is an example of an ethical problem in _____.

- a. the use of authority
- b. the relationship between personal and professional interests
- c. personal and professional commitments to clients
- d. criminal justice and public policy

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice and Public Policy

Difficulty Level: Medium

41. The criminalization of immigration, or “crimmigration,” is an example of an ethical problem in _____.

- a. the use of authority
- b. the relationship between personal and professional interests
- c. criminal justice and public policy

d. information sharing

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice and Public Policy

Difficulty Level: Medium

42. Capital punishment and the use of armed drones and targeted killings by authorities are examples of ethical problems _____.

- a. dealing with human rights issues in the criminal justice system
- b. resulting from policing policies
- c. in criminal justice and public policy
- d. in information sharing

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Problems in Dealing with Human Rights Issues in the Criminal Justice System

Difficulty Level: Medium

43. Engaging in or promoting professional activities that are contrary to personal values is an example of an ethical problem in _____.

- a. the use of authority
- b. the relationship between personal and professional interests
- c. personal and professional commitments to clients
- d. criminal justice and public policy

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Problems in the Relationship Between Personal and Professional Interests

Difficulty Level: Medium

44. Increased surveillance of citizens in society is an example of an ethical problem in _____.

- a. the use of authority
- b. the relationship between personal and professional interests
- c. personal and professional commitments to clients
- d. criminal justice and public policy

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice and Public Policy

Difficulty Level: Medium

45. Policing policy in domestic violence cases, police use of body cameras, and “Stop and Frisk” are all examples of ethical problems _____.

- a. resulting from policing policies
- b. in information sharing
- c. dealing with human rights issues in the criminal justice system
- d. in the media reporting of crime

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Issues Resulting From Policing Policies

Difficulty Level: Medium

46. Use of force is an example of an ethical issue _____.

- a. resulting from policing policies
- b. in information sharing
- c. dealing with human rights issues in the criminal justice system
- d. in the media reporting of crime

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Issue Resulting From Policing Policies

Difficulty Level: Medium

47. Rules or practices relating to retention or disposal of court records is an example of an ethical problem _____.

- a. resulting from policing policies
- b. in information sharing
- c. dealing with human rights issues in the criminal justice system
- d. in the media reporting of crime

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Problems In information Sharing

Difficulty Level: Medium

48. Ethics of withholding information from a client, the court, or police, is an example of an ethical problem _____.

- a. resulting from policing policies
- b. in information sharing

- c. dealing with human rights issues in the criminal justice system
- d. in the media reporting of crime

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Problems In Information Sharing

Difficulty Level: Medium

49. Crime and public opinion is an example of an ethical issue _____.

- a. resulting from policing policies
- b. in information sharing
- c. dealing with human rights issues in the criminal justice system
- d. in the media reporting of crime

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Issues in the Media Reporting of Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

50. The politicization of crime is an example of an ethical issue _____.

- a. resulting from policing policies
- b. in information sharing
- c. dealing with human rights issues in the criminal justice system
- d. in the media reporting of crime

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Issues in the Media Reporting of Crime

Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. Ethical pluralism and ethical relativism are similar in that both tend to reject moral or ethical absolutes.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Ethical Relativism | Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. The principles of normative ethics help us decide which government policies are best.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Normative Ethics

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Cultural and ethical relativism are similar approaches to ethics.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethical Relativism

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Police gratuities do not raise ethical issues.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Problems in the Use of Authority

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. An ethical or cultural relativist will not condemn practices in other cultures that are required by that culture.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethical Relativism

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. The field of ethics is a branch of the field of philosophy.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Meaning of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The study of ethics decreases sensitivity to issues of right and wrong.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Value of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. The study of ethics is important for criminal justice personnel in that it can provide tools and perspectives on how to properly exercise discretion.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Value of Ethics

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Hare argues that we initially use an intuitive level of moral thinking when we consider ethical dilemmas.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Values do not include what individuals care about and what they think are important.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Easy

Short Answer

1. What is the purpose of normative ethics?

Ans: It takes into account one's conduct in moral issues.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Normative Ethics

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. What is the basic argument of ethical relativism?

Ans: It argues that what is morally right or wrong may vary in a fundamental way from person to person or from culture to culture.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethical Relativism

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. What is the basic argument of moral absolutism?

Ans: It argues that there exists an eternal and unchanging moral law, the same for all people, at all times and places.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethical Absolutism

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. What is “natural law?”

Ans: Laws that govern human behavior and define the right way to live.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethics and Natural Law

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Give a brief example of an ethical dilemma in the use of authority.

Ans: For example, using authority to promote personal values, to escape accountability for wrongdoing, or police acceptance of gratuities, free meals, discounts, gifts, privileges, etc.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Ethical Problems in the Use of Authority

Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay

1. Discuss, describe, compare and contrast ethical and cultural relativism with ethical absolutism. Please be sure to provide examples.

Ans: Answers will vary.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Ethical Relativism | Cultural Relativism | Ethical Absolutism

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. How does the theory of ethical pluralism help one steer a course between ethical relativism and ethical absolutism? Please be sure to provide examples.

Ans: Answers will vary.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Ethical Relativism | Cultural Relativism | Ethical Absolutism | Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Summarize the six steps in analyzing/solving an ethical dilemma. Give an example at each step.

Ans: Answers will vary.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Ethical Dilemmas

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Does ethical pluralism succeed in providing serious guidance to ethical problems? Do the four principles provide true guides, or do they incorporate their own relativism? Please be sure to explain your position and provide examples.

Ans: Answers will vary.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Ethical Pluralism

Difficulty Level: Hard