

Chapter 1: Identify Moral Claims and Arguments

Practice Exercises 1A

Question 1

What kind of claim is the claim below? Pick the best answer.

"People tend to do what's in their best interest."

- ☐ a) Moral claim
- ☒ b) Descriptive claim
- ☐ c) A moral claim but not prescriptive or evaluative.

Question 2

What kind of claim is the claim below? Pick the best answer.

"Abortion in the first and second trimesters is legal."

- ☒ a) Descriptive claim
- ☐ b) Moral claim
- ☐ c) A moral claim but not prescriptive or evaluative.

Question 3

What kind of claim is the claim below? Pick the best answer.

"Physician-assisted suicide is morally wrong."

- ☐ a) Descriptive claim
- ☒ b) Moral claim
- ☐ c) A moral claim but not prescriptive or evaluative.

Question 7

What kind of claim is the claim below? Pick the best answer.

"People often make sacrifices for their friends and family."

- ➡ ☒ a) Descriptive claim
- ☐ b) A moral claim but not prescriptive or evaluative.
- ☐ c) Moral claim

Question 8

What kind of claim is the claim below? Pick the best answer.

"Policies that systematically make it harder for racial minorities to vote are unjust."

- ➡ ☒ a) Moral claim
- ☐ b) A moral claim but not prescriptive or evaluative.
- ☐ c) Descriptive claim

Question 9

What kind of claim is the claim below? Pick the best answer.

"You're morally required to save another person's life if you can do so without risking your own."

- ➡ ☒ a) Moral claim
- ☐ b) Descriptive claim
- ☐ c) A moral claim but not prescriptive or evaluative.

Question 10

What kind of claim is the claim below? Pick the best answer.

"Students should never cheat on an exam."

- ☒ a) Moral claim
- ☐ b) Descriptive claim
- ☐ c) A moral claim but not prescriptive or evaluative.

Question 11

What kind of claim is the claim below? Pick the best answer.

"Physicians who withhold potential risks from patients undermine their community's trust in medical institutions."

- ☐ a) A moral claim but not prescriptive or evaluative.
- ☐ b) Moral claim
- ☒ c) Descriptive claim

Practice Exercises 1B

Question 12

What kind of argument is this? Pick the best answer.

- 1) Voter intimidation (intimidating someone to get them to vote for a particular candidate or to prevent them from voting) is illegal
- 2) Impersonating an election official to falsely convince someone they don't have the right kind of ID to vote is voter intimidation

So, impersonating an election official to falsely convince someone they don't have the right kind of ID to vote is illegal.

- ☒ a) An argument, but not a moral argument

- ☐ b) Not an argument at all
- ☐ c) A moral argument
- ☐ d) A moral argument but with a descriptive conclusion

Question 13

What kind of argument is this? Pick the best answer.

1) It is wrong to put your pets at unnecessary risk.

2) Keeping lilies in a place where they are accessible to your cat is an unnecessary risk to your pet.

Thus, it is wrong to keep lilies in a place where they are accessible to your cat.

- ☐ a) Not an argument at all
- ☐ b) An argument, but not a moral argument
- ☒ c) A moral argument
- ☐ d) A moral argument but with a descriptive conclusion

Question 14

What kind of argument is this? Pick the best answer.

1) Any practice that exploits vulnerable people ought to be illegal.

2) Commercial surrogacy exploits vulnerable people.

So, commercial surrogacy ought to be illegal.

- ☐ a) Not an argument at all
- ☐ b) An argument, but not a moral argument

- ☒ c) A moral argument
- ☐ d) A moral argument but with a descriptive conclusion

Question 15

What kind of argument is this? Pick the best answer.

1) Gene editing technology (like CRISPR) could one day allow us to eliminate genes for serious diseases (such as Huntington's disease, etc.).

2) Eliminating genes for serious diseases would promote longer, healthier lives.

Therefore, gene editing technology could one day promote longer, healthier lives.

- ☒ a) An argument, but not a moral argument
- ☐ b) A moral argument but with a descriptive conclusion
- ☐ c) Not an argument at all
- ☐ d) A moral argument

Question 16

What kind of argument is this? Pick the best answer.

1) People have a moral right to be able to obtain effective means of self-defense.

2) Owning handguns is an effective means of self-defense.

Thus, people have a moral right to own handguns.

- ☒ a) A moral argument

- ☐ b) A moral argument but with a descriptive conclusion
- ☐ c) Not an argument at all
- ☐ d) An argument, but not a moral argument