Instructor's Manual to Accompany
Living Ethics 2e
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Contents

Chapter 1: Moral Theory

<u>Chapter Multiple Choice Questions</u>

1. According to the text, the three core areas of moral philosophy are normative ethics, value theory, and
    a. moral skepticism.
    b. conventional morality.
    c. applied ethics.
    d. metaethics.
    Answer: d

*2. The area of moral philosophy known as "value theory" includes questions such as
    a. Is morality objective?
    b. What do we owe to each other?
    c. What kind of life is most worth living?
    d. How do we know which actions are morally right?
    Answer: c

3. The question "do the ends justify the means?" falls within the area of
    a. value theory.
    b. normative ethics.
    c. metaethics.
    d. moral psychology.
    Answer: b

4. The claim that morality is a human invention and therefore not objective falls within the domain of
    a. applied ethics.
    b. value theory.
    c. normative ethics.
    d. metaethics.
    Answer: d

*5. Skepticism about morality is
    a. a position that no one has ever argued for.
    b. nearly universally accepted.
    c. nearly universally rejected.
    d. deeply controversial.
    Answer: d

*6. "Conventional morality" is the set of
   a. laws of a particular government.
   b. principles genuinely believed by a moral agent.
   c. traditional principles that are widely shared within a culture or society.
   d. true moral principles.
   Answer: c

7. Which is *not* a central concern of morality?
   a. Protecting people's well-being
   b. Justice
   c. Blame
   d. Legality
   Answer: d

8. What do principles of law, etiquette, self-interest, tradition, and morality all have in common?
   a. They all represent a set of standards for how we ought to behave.
   b. They all are objective.
   c. They all are descriptive.
   d. All of the above
   Answer: a

9. Some moral actions are
   a. illegal.
   b. impolite.
   c. generous.
   d. All of the above
   Answer: d

*10. Which of the following questions falls within the domain of metaethics?
   a. What is the status of moral claims and advice?
   b. What are our fundamental moral duties?
   c. Do the ends always justify the means?
   d. What is the good life?
   Answer: a

11. Which of the following claims falls within the domain of value theory?
   a. Morality is objective.
   b. Moral knowledge is impossible.
   c. The right thing to do is whatever maximizes happiness.
   d. The only thing that matters in order to live well is to get what you want.

Answer: d

*12. What area of moral philosophy deals with questions about what our moral obligations are?
   a. Value theory
   b. Normative ethics
   c. Metaethics
   d. Moral epistemology
   Answer: b

*13. Which of the following is *not* one of the plausible starting points for moral thinking discussed in the text?
   a. Neither the law nor tradition is immune from moral criticism.
   b. We are not obligated to do the impossible.
   c. The consequences of our actions are the most morally important.
   d. Deliberately hurting other people requires justification.
   Answer: c

*14. Which of the following is *not* true of critical morality?
   a. It can serve as the true standard for evaluating conventional morality.
   b. It necessarily generates moral skepticism.
   c. It does not have its origin in social agreements.
   d. It is untainted by mistaken beliefs, irrationality, or popular prejudices.
   Answer: b

15. According to the text, moral skepticism is
   a. possibly true.
   b. a core area of moral philosophy.
   c. absurd or self-defeating.
   d. the default view of ethics.
   Answer: a

16. The view that an act is morally obligatory just because it is required by God, and that it is immoral just because God forbids it, is known as
   a. theism.
   b. conventional morality.
   c. the divine command theory.
   d. value theory.
   Answer: c

*17. The *Argument from Religious Authority* faces difficulties because
   a. there are multiple sacred texts.

b. it requires justifying claims that God exists.
c. there are multiple interpretations of sacred texts.
d. All of the above
Answer: d

18. According to the conclusion of the *Divine Perfection Argument*,
a. God exists.
b. the divine command theory is false.
c. God is omniscient.
d. theism is false.
Answer: b

*19. The divine command theory falls within the domain of
a. value theory.
b. normative ethics.
c. applied ethics.
d. moral skepticism.
Answer: b

*20. According to the *Divine Perfection Argument*, if the divine command theory is true, then
a. God is morally perfect.
b. God does not exist.
c. God is morally imperfect.
d. moral skepticism is justified.
Answer: c

Chapter Essay Questions

*1. Are you satisfied with what the text says about the definition of morality? Why or why not? Can you think of a definition of morality? Do you think your definition successfully captures what morality is?
A good essay will:
- Explain and evaluate what the text says about the definition of morality
- Try to think of a definition of morality
- Evaluate the definition you think of

*2. Do you think there are any elements of conventional morality that are mistaken? If so, which ones, and why?

3. Explain and discuss the *Divine Perfection Argument*. Do you think this argument is sound? Why or why not?

4. Explain and discuss the *Argument from Religious Authority*. Do you think this argument is sound? Why or why not?

*5. Explain and discuss the starting points for moral thinking considered in the chapter. Do you agree that these are all plausible starting points for moral thinking? If not, which ones are not, and why? Can you think of any other plausible starting points not considered in the chapter?

Web Links

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

"Guidelines on Reading Philosophy," Jim Pryor

Pea Soup, an academic blog on ethics and value theory

Practical Ethics, a blog dedicated to ethical analysis of current events

"The Definition of Morality," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

"Ethics," *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Key Terms

Atheism: the view that God does not exist.

Conventional morality: the system of widely accepted rules and principles that members of a culture or society use to govern their own lives and to assess the actions and the motivations of others.

Critical morality: a set of moral norms that (i) does not have its origin in social agreements; (ii) is untainted by mistaken beliefs, irrationality, or popular prejudices; and (iii) can serve as the true standard for determining when conventional morality has got it right and when it has fallen into error.

Divine command theory: the view that an act is morally required just because it is commanded by God, and immoral just because God forbids it.

Norms: standards that we ought to live up to.

Normative system: a set of norms, that is, a set of standards for how we ought to behave, ideals to aim for, rules that we should not break.

Omniscient: all-knowing.

Theists: those who believe that God exists.

Chapter 2: Moral Reasoning

Chapter Multiple Choice Questions

*1.   In philosophy, an argument is a(n)
    a.   formal debate between two parties who disagree.
    b.   heated confrontation concerning a key philosophical issue.
    c.   chain of reasoning consisting of a set of reasons that supports some conclusion.
    d.   objection to a stated philosophical position.
    Answer: c

*2.   It is impossible for a valid argument to have _____ premises and a _____ conclusion.
    a.   true; false
    b.   true; true
    c.   false; false
    d.   None of the above
    Answer: a

*3.   What argument type has the form: "if P, then Q; P; therefore, Q"?
    a.   Modus tollens
    b.   Affirming the consequent
    c.   Hypothetical syllogism
    d.   Modus ponens
    Answer: d

4.   There is no such thing as a
    a.   sound argument that is also valid.
    b.   sound argument that is not valid.
    c.   valid argument that is also sound.
    d.   valid argument that is not sound.
    Answer: b

*5.   The conclusion of a sound argument
    a.   will always be true.
    b.   will always be false.
    c.   might be true but also might be false.
    d.   will always be relevant to the debate at hand.
    Answer: a

6.   What argument type has the form: "if P, then Q; Q is false; therefore, P is false"?
    a.   Modus tollens

b. Denying the antecedent

c. Hypothetical syllogism

d. Modus ponens

Answer: a

7. What is the best description of the following argument? *If the sky is yellow, then grass is pink. The sky is yellow. Therefore, grass is pink.*

a. Valid and sound

b. Valid but unsound

c. Invalid but sound

d. Invalid and unsound

Answer: b

*8. When is an argument logically valid?

a. When its premises are true

b. When its conclusion is true

c. When both its premises and conclusion are true

d. When the truth of its premises guarantees the truth of its conclusion

Answer: d

9. What argument type has the form: "if P, then Q; if Q, then R; therefore, if P, then R"?

a. Modus tollens

b. Affirming the consequent

c. Hypothetical syllogism

d. Modus ponens

Answer: c

10. What argument type has the form: "if P, then Q; Q; therefore, P is true"?

a. Modus tollens

b. Affirming the consequent

c. Hypothetical syllogism

d. Modus ponens

Answer: b

11. What argument type has the form: "if P, then Q; P is false; therefore, Q is false"?

a. Modus tollens

b. Denying the antecedent

c. Hypothetical syllogism

d. Modus ponens

Answer: b

12. A necessary condition is a _____ and a sufficient condition is a _____ .
    a. guarantee; requirement
    b. guarantee; prerequisite
    c. requirement; guarantee
    d. precondition; requirement
    Answer: c

*13. Trying to undermine the truth of a position by attacking the person who is advancing it is called
    a. the ad hominem fallacy.
    b. appeal to ignorance.
    c. the straw man fallacy.
    d. appeal to irrelevant emotions.
    Answer: a

14. Depicting a position in a way that makes it easy to refute is known as
    a. the ad hominem fallacy.
    b. appeal to ignorance.
    c. the straw man fallacy.
    d. appeal to irrelevant emotions.
    Answer: c

*15. A claim that supplies a condition that is both necessary and sufficient for something is called a(n)
    a. consequent.
    b. guarantee.
    c. biconditional.
    d. antecedent.
    Answer: c

16. The sentence "An action is wrong if and only if it causes pain" is an example of a(n)
    a. hypothetical syllogism.
    b. appeal to irrelevant emotions.
    c. straw man fallacy.
    d. biconditional.
    Answer: d

*17. Formal fallacies are always
    a. sound.
    b. invalid.
    c. false.

d. unpersuasive.

Answer: b

*18. Someone who claims plants and trees are conscious simply because it hasn't been proven that they're not is guilty of making an appeal to

a. ignorance.
b. irrelevant emotions.
c. popularity.
d. authority.

Answer: a

19. Which of the following is an example of a formal fallacy?

a. Ad hominen
b. Affirming the consequent
c. Straw man
d. Hasty generalization

Answer: b

*20. Which fallacy occurs when someone makes a sweeping claim about a group based on only a small handful of cases?

a. Ad hominen
b. Affirming the consequent
c. Straw man
d. Hasty generalization

Answer: d

Chapter Essay Questions

*1. What is a valid argument? How can we determine whether an argument is valid or invalid? Provide an example of both a valid and invalid argument in your answer.
A good essay will:
- Define logical validity
- Lay out the three-part test for validity
- Apply the three-part test to the sample arguments provided

*2. What is an *argument* as philosophers use the term? What makes for a good argument?

3. What is the difference between a necessary condition and a sufficient condition? Why is understanding necessary and sufficient conditions important for ethical thinking?

4.   Explain why every instance of modus ponens reasoning is logically valid, using the technical terms *conditional*, *antecedent*, and *consequent* in your answer. Why is the argument form affirming the consequent not similarly valid?

*5.   What is a fallacy? Describe the fallacies discussed in the text, providing a concrete example of each.

Web Links

"Moral Reasoning," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

"What Is an Argument?" Jim Pryor

"Vocabulary Describing Arguments," Jim Pryor

"Validity and Soundness," *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

"Deductive and Inductive Arguments," *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

"Critical Thinking - Fundamentals: Deductive Arguments," Wireless Philosophy

"How to Argue— Philosophical Reasoning," Crash Course Philosophy

Key Terms

Antecedent: the "if" clause of a conditional; the clause that specifies a sufficient condition of the conditional's consequent.

Argument: a chain of thought in which reasons are offered in support of a particular conclusion.

Biconditional: a claim that supplies a condition that is both necessary and sufficient for something; an "if and only if" sentence.

Conditional: an if–then sentence.

Consequent: the "then" clause of a conditional; it specifies a necessary condition of the conditional's antecedent.

Hypothetical syllogism: An argument of the form: if P, then Q; If Q, then R; therefore, If P, then R.

Logical validity: the feature of an argument that guarantees the truth of its conclusion, on the assumption that its premises are true.

Modus ponens: An argument of the form: If P, then Q; P; therefore, Q.

Modus tollens: An argument of the form: if P, then Q; Q is false; therefore, P is false.

Necessary condition: a requirement, a prerequisite, a precondition

Premises: the reasons within an argument that, taken together, are meant to support the argument's conclusion.

Sufficient condition: a guarantee.

Soundness: the feature that arguments have when they are logically valid and all of their premises are true.