

Chapter One: An Introduction to Ethics

True/False Questions

1. The soundness of a moral standard depends on the reasoning that supports it.
- a. True
 - b. False

ANS: True

2. Morality refers to the norms of correct conduct in polite society or, more generally, to any special code of social behavior or courtesy.
- a. True
 - b. False

ANS: False

3. Cultural relativism is the theory that what is right is determined by what a culture or society say is right.
- a. True
 - b. False

ANS: True

4. Utilitarianism is the theory that the morally right action is the one that achieves the most happiness for everyone involved.
- a. True
 - b. False

ANS: True

5. Egoism is aptly characterized by the expression, "Eat, drink and be happy."
- a. True
 - b. False

ANS: False

6. Psychological egoism is the theory that contends that self-interest is the only thing that ever motivates anyone.
- a. True
 - b. False

ANS: True

7. Utilitarianism is based on the concept of majority rule.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: False

8. Utilitarianism focuses on the results of an action, not on the character of the action itself.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: True

9. According to Kant, rational agents should be treated as ends in themselves and never merely as a means to an end.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: True

10. Kant's theory is consequentialist in nature.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: False

11. An action can be legal and yet immoral and, contrariwise, an action can be illegal and yet moral.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: True

12. All moral standards are based on etiquette.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: False

13. All moral principles are based on religion.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: False

14. According to the Divine Command Theory, murder is wrong because God commands us not to do it.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: True

15. There are two kinds of normative theories: consequentialist and nonconsequentialist.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: True

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following expressions best captures the theory of egoism?

- a. When in Rome, do as the Romans do
- b. Always look out for 'Number One'
- c. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
- d. The ends justify the means

ANS: B

2. According to the theory of Utilitarianism, what makes right acts right?

- a. They are based on self-interest.
- b. They maximize happiness.
- c. They accord with God's commands.
- d. They accord with the social norms of one's society.

ANS: B

3. Which of the following is a common objection to Utilitarianism?

- a. The theory requires us to compare alternative courses of action, but the outcomes of the various alternatives are often uncertain.
- b. The theory concerns itself with the total amount of happiness, and not with how that happiness is distributed.
- c. The theory may require that some people's happiness be sacrificed in order to achieve the greatest overall amount of happiness.
- d. All of the above

ANS: D

4. According to Kant, the only thing good in itself is _____.

- a. God
- b. Duty
- c. A good will
- d. A pure and unadulterated heart

ANS: C

5. The fundamental principle of Kant's ethics is called the _____.

- a. Greatest Happiness Principle
- b. Principle of Utility
- c. Categorical Imperative
- d. All of the above

ANS: C

6. Which of the following is a characteristic of moral principles, according to Kant?

- a. They are based on the norms of one's society
- b. They can be overridden by other more stringent duties
- c. They function without exception
- d. All of the above

ANS: C

7. What would Kant say about the case of breaking a deathbed promise?

- a. We are justified in breaking a promise if necessary to promote our self-interest.
- b. We are justified in breaking a promise if necessary to promote the happiness of everyone involved.
- c. It is permissible to break a promise only if necessary to uphold a more stringent moral principle, such as cause no harm.

d. The maxim permitting you to break a promise cannot be universalized, and hence breaking your promise would be immoral.

ANS: D

8. What would W.D. Ross say about the case of breaking a deathbed promise?

- a. We are justified in breaking a promise if necessary to promote our self-interest.
- b. We are justified in breaking a promise if necessary to promote the happiness of everyone involved.
- c. It is permissible to break a promise only if necessary to uphold a more stringent moral principle, such as cause no harm.
- d. The maxim permitting you to break your promise cannot be universalized, and hence breaking your promise would be immoral.

ANS: C

9. What would the Utilitarian about the case of breaking a deathbed promise?

- a. We are justified in breaking a promise if necessary to promote our self-interest.
- b. We are justified in breaking a promise if necessary to promote the happiness of everyone involved.
- c. It is permissible to break a promise only if necessary to uphold a more stringent moral principle, such as cause no harm.
- d. The maxim permitting you to break your promise cannot be universalized, and hence breaking your promise would be immoral.

ANS: B

10. W.D. Ross bases his theory on _____.

- a. God
- b. Happiness
- c. Duty
- d. Prima facie duties

ANS: D

11. According to Cultural Relativism, what makes right acts right?

- a. They are based on self-interest
- b. They maximize happiness
- c. They accord with God's commands
- d. They accord with the social norms of one's society

ANS: D