Test Bank for Concise Introduction to Ethics 1st Shafer-Landau

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Instructor's Manual to Accompany
A Concise Introduction to Ethics
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Chapters 1 and 2

Chapter Multiple Choice Questions

*1. 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?

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

*3. The claim that morality is a human invention and therefore not objective is a claim about
   a. applied ethics.
   b. value theory.
   c. normative ethics.
   d. metaethics.*

*4. 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.*

5. 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.

*6. 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

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7. 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.

*8. 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.

9. "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.

10. Which is *not* a central concern of morality?
   a. protecting people's well-being
   b. justice
   c. blame
   d. legality*

11. 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

12. Some moral actions are
   a. illegal.
   b. impolite.
   c. generous.
   d. all of the above*

*13. Which of the following questions falls within the domain of metaethics?
   a. What is the status of moral claims and advice?*

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b. What are our fundamental moral duties?
c. Do the ends always justify the means?
d. What is the good life?

14. 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.*

*15. 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

*16. An *argument* in philosophy is a
a. set of claims, including a conclusion and reasons given in support of the conclusion.*
b. formal debate between competing positions.
c. heated exchange of the sort that is frowned upon by serious philosophers.
d. complex philosophical theory.

*17. Which of the following is impossible?
a. a valid argument with a false conclusion
b. a sound argument with a false premise*
c. a valid argument that is not sound
d. a sound argument with a true conclusion

18. If we discover that an argument is invalid, what does this tell us about its conclusion?
a. It is true.
b. It is false.
c. It follows from the premises.
d. none of the above*

19. 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

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*20. 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.

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

Jim Pryor's guidelines on reading philosophy:
http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html
Jim Pryor's guidelines on philosophical argumentation:
http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/argument.html

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http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/validity.html
http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/goodbad.html
An academic blog on ethics and value theory:
http://peasoup.us/
A blog dedicated to ethical analysis of current events:
http://blog.practicalethics.ox.ac.uk/
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy:
http://plato.stanford.edu/
Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy:
http://www.iep.utm.edu/
The Definition of Morality:
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/morality-definition/
Ethics:
http://www.iep.utm.edu/ethics/

Key Terms (Chapter 1)

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.

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Key Terms (Chapter 2)

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.

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