Test Bank for Disputed Moral Issues Reader 4th Timmons

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TEST QUESTIONS
(ESSAY, MULTIPLE CHOICE, TRUE/FALSE, AND FILL-IN-THE-BLANK)

*** indicates the question appear on the student website.**
An answer bank follows each chapter's questions.

CHAPTER 1 QUESTIONS

Essay Questions

1. Give your own example of something that is plausibly intrinsically valuable and something that is plausibly *only* extrinsically valuable. Explain your reasoning.

2 What is the difference between act consequentialism and rule consequentialism?

3. What is value hedonism? Give an example of something that *seems* intrinsically valuable but, according to the theory, is not. Discuss whether this example proves that value hedonism is false.

4. What is the doctrine of double effect? Give your own example of an action that the doctrine would apply to and explain what the doctrine says about the morality of that action.

5. Explain Kant's Universal Law formulation of the categorical imperative. Explain how the formulation would apply to *either* (i) lying promises *or* (ii) helping others in need.

6. What is the difference between a merely rights-focused approach and a rights-based *theory*? Why does Timmons make this distinction?

7. Give your own example of a case in which a virtuous person, acting in character, performs a morally right action. What virtues are exhibited in this case? Explain how the person in your case, in addition to acting rightly, also experienced the appropriate *feelings*.

8. What is the difference between a prima facie duty and an all-things-considered duty? Give an example of an action that someone has a prima facie but not an all-things-considered duty to perform.

9. Describe one of Timmons's arguments for the claim that moral theory can help focus and sharpen our moral thinking about particular issues.

10. Describe the hypothetical situation in which persons are to decide on basic principles of justice, according to John Rawls's social contact theory. (*Hint*: This is the "original position" in which the decisions are made under a "veil of ignorance.")

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Multiple-Choice Questions

*1. In ethics, the terms "right" and "wrong" are used primarily to evaluate the morality of
   A. persons.
   B. actions.
   C. consequences.
   D. concrete objects.

2. Which of the following is an example of a value-based moral theory?
   A. consequentialism
   B. virtue ethics
   C. both A and B
   D. neither A nor B

*3. Which of the following is an example of a duty-based moral theory?
   A. consequentialism
   B. natural law theory
   C. Kantian moral theories
   D. none of the above

4. Necessarily, if something is intrinsically good, then
   A. its value depends on its relationship to something else that is intrinsically good.
   B. its value depends on features that are *inherent* to it.
   C. it is an action that is morally right.
   D. it is also intrinsically value-neutral.

*5. Which of the following is a feature of consequentialist moral theory?
   A. It is a value-based theory.
   B. It involves the idea of alternative actions open to the agent.
   C. It is a strongly impartialist moral theory.
   D. all of the above

6. Which of the following is a kind of consequentialist theory that explains right action in terms of the net balance of pleasure (or lack of pain) produced by that action?
   A. hedonistic utilitarianism
   B. perfectionist consequentialism
   C. rule consequentialism
   D. By definition, consequentialist theories do *not* mention pain.

*7. To say that the consequentialist account of right action is a *maximizing* conception is to say that, according to the account,
   A. we are obligated to convince as many people as possible to accept consequentialism.
   B. we ought to perform that action the consequences of which will have at least as much overall value as any of the alternative actions.

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C. we are to perform that action the consequences of which will have the least overall value compared to any of the alternative actions.
D. none of the above

8. According to rule consequentialism, the rightness or wrongness of an action depends on
   A. that action's relationship to the operative rules of law.
   B. the logical consistency behind the motive of actions of the same type.
   C. whether a virtuous person would endorse a rule requiring, permitting, or prohibiting that action.
   D. whether that action is required, permitted, or prohibited by a rule the consequences of which are best.

*9. Which of the following is a basic intrinsic good, according to Aquinas's version of natural law theory?
   A. human life
   B. human procreation
   C. human sociability
   D. all of the above

10. According to the basic principle of natural law theory, an action is right if and only if (and because)
   A. the action only indirectly violates some of the basic values.
   B. the action is of a type that the laws of natural selection have favored.
   C. in performing the action one does not directly violate any of the basic values.
   D. none of the above

*11. To say that an action is intrinsically permissible (a feature mentioned in the doctrine of double effect) is to say that
   A. the action, apart from its effects, is morally permissible.
   B. the action, only because of its effects, is morally permissible.
   C. no actual person would ever endorse that action.
   D. the action is valuable because of its relationship to things that are intrinsically valuable.

12. The doctrine of double effect is so named because it concerns
   A. actions that are composites of simpler actions.
   B. cases in which performing an action would have at least one good effect and one bad effect.
   C. cases in which an action would have at least two good effects or two bad effects.
   D. cases in which two actions of the same type are performed at the same time.

*13. In satisfying Kant's Humanity formulation of the categorical imperative, we are obligated to adopt two very general goals: the goal of promoting the (morally permissible) ends of others and the goal of

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A. self-perfection.
B. producing happiness.
C. increasing welfare.
D. self-sacrifice.

14. Kant's Universal Law formulation does not refer to an agent's wants; rather, it represents
A. an ethical dilemma.
B. a criterion for social acceptability.
C. a way to measure the value of an action's consequences.
D. a kind of consistency test.

*15. Kant refers to the special worth or value of persons as
A. virtue.
B. beauty.
C. praiseworthiness.
D. dignity.

16. A negative right, held by someone *A* to perform some action *X*, would be
A. a claim by *A* that others refrain from interfering with *A*'s performing *X*.
B. a claim by *A* that others assist *A* in performing *X*.
C. a claim against *A* to the effect that *A* should not perform *X*.
D. none of the above

*17. A positive right of *A* against *B* would involve *A*'s claim that
A. nobody interfere with *B*'s pursuit of certain goods.
B. *B* do or provide something to *A*.
C. everybody must assist *B* in his pursuit of certain goods.
D. none of the above

18. A utilitarian who recognizes rights will attempt to explain rights on the basis of utility by claiming that
A. there are no moral rights; there is only utility.
B. a moral right is a kind of claim that is justified by the fact that its recognition will not diminish overall welfare.
C. a moral right is a kind of claim that is justified by the fact that its recognition will contribute to the maximization of overall welfare.
D. all of the above

*19. Which of the following is an example of a vice of character?
A. blindness
B. physical weakness
C. obesity
D. cowardice

20. Which of the following is an example of a virtue of character?

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A. tallness
B. honesty
C. physical beauty
D. simplicity

*21. John considers what Mary has done and thinks to himself, *Mary did the right thing*. This thought is primarily a judgment about
A. Mary's upbringing.
B. an action Mary performed.
C. Mary's moral character.
D. what John thinks he would have done.

22. Ross proposed that we have a duty of reparation—that is, the prima facie duty—to
A. make amends to others for any past wrongs one has done to them.
B. show gratitude toward one's benefactors.
C. refrain from harming others.
D. improve oneself with respect to one's own virtue and knowledge.

*23. Audi proposed that we expand Ross's list of prima facie duties to include
A. veracity.
B. enhancement and preservation of freedom.
C. respectfulness.
D. all of the above

24. According to Ross, in determining which prima facie duty is the most "stringent" in some particular case and thus represents one's all-things-considered duty, one must
A. appeal to a set of fixed rules to calculate which duty will prevail.
B. appeal to a moral authority.
C. use one's *judgment* rather than appealing to a fixed set of rules.
D. perform a utilitarian calculation.

*25. Corresponding to the theoretical aim of moral theory is the principle of
A. explanatory power.
B. parsimony.
C. practical guidance.
D. none of the above

26. Corresponding to the practical aim of moral theory is the principle of
A. parsimony.
B. practical guidance.
C. explanatory power.
D. none of the above

*27. Timmons claims that philosophers *argue* for their moral principles and that
A. we should appeal to divine revelation to determine the soundness of those arguments.

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B. we can rationally evaluate their arguments.
C. these arguments, being arbitrary, cannot be rationally evaluated.
D. there is no way to determine which arguments are better than others.

28. Suppose Bob claims that infanticide is not wrong in certain cultures *just because* killing infants is permitted in those cultures. With this claim, we can reasonably infer that Bob accepts some version of
A. an ethics of prima facie duty.
B. consequentialism.
C. divine command theory.
D. ethical relativism.

*29. The basic idea of social contract theories of morality is that correct or justified moral rules or principles are the ones that result from
A. a social leader's moral deliberations.
B. an actual or hypothetical social agreement of some sort.
C. a contract that has been signed by most of the affected parties.
D. none of the above

30. According to the principle of greatest equal liberty proposed by John Rawls, each person is to have an equal right to
A. the highest level of happiness that is attainable by the least happy person in the society.
B. the social and economic inequalities that are built into society.
C. opportunities and resources that belong to that person but nobody else.
D. the most extensive basic liberty compatible with a similarly liberty for others.

True/False Questions

1. The *practical aim* of a moral theory is to offer practical guidance for how we might arrive at correct or justified moral verdicts about matters of moral concern.

*2. *Duty-based* moral theories include versions of consequentialism and virtue ethics.

3. Principles of *value* specify conditions under which an action is right (or wrong).

*4. According to perfectionist consequentialism, an action is right if and only if (and because) it is what a morally perfect person would perform.

5. Both utilitarianism and perfectionist consequentialism come in act- and rule-based forms.

*6. According to utilitarianism, it is human welfare or happiness alone that is intrinsically valuable.

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7. The doctrine of double effect requires that certain actions be *proportional*—that is, that the evil brought about by the action is not out of proportion to the good being aimed at.

*8. Unlike with other moral theories, applying the natural law theory is a mechanical process.

9. To say that persons are ends in themselves is to say that they have a special worth or value that demands of us that we have a certain positive regard for them.

*10. Central to Kant's theory is the idea that there are several basic moral principles, none of which can be derived from any other.

11. The right to free speech is an example of a *positive* right.

*12. According to rights-based theory, sometimes it is not possible to respect all the fundamental moral rights of others.

13. A vice is a character trait that contributes to making someone a morally bad person.

*14. Virtue ethics entails that there are only good and bad *people*; there are no good or bad *actions*.

15. According to the ethics of prima facie duty, there is a single moral principle from which all other moral principles can be derived.

*16. According to Ross the duty of nonmaleficence is the prima facie duty to ensure that pleasure is distributed according to merit.

17. Timmons claims that moral theory can help focus and sharpen our moral thinking about particular issues.

*18. Timmons argues that there are standards by which we can rationally evaluate moral theories.

19. John Rawls intends his theory to be a complete social contract account of morality.

*20. The point of the veil of ignorance, according to Rawls, is to ensure that no one is able to design principles to favor his particular condition.

Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

1. According to the basic categories of right conduct, a right action can be either obligatory or _____ (i.e., all right to do and all right not to do).

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*2. Things that are intrinsically _____ are neither intrinsically good nor intrinsically bad.

3. The _____ aim of a moral theory is to discover those underlying features of actions, persons, or other items of moral evaluation that *make* them right or wrong.

*4. Consequentialism is a(n) _____ theory of right action because, according to it, the rightness (or wrongness) of an action depends on how much intrinsic value it would likely produce compared to how much intrinsic value alternative actions would likely produce.

5. According to value hedonism, only states of _____ have intrinsic negative value.

*6. _____ consequentialism is any version of consequentialism according to which it is the net intrinsic value of the consequences of particular alternative actions open to an agent in some situation that determines the rightness or wrongness of those alternative actions.

7. An action meets the condition of _____ (mentioned by the law of double effect) if it is not possible to bring about the good effect of that action except by performing an action that will bring about the evil effect in question.

*8. According to natural law theory, there are objectively true moral principles that are grounded in facts about human _____.

9. The _____ rule says, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

*10. According to Kant's _____ formulation of his categorical imperative, we should treat persons as ends in themselves and never as a mere means.

11. Perhaps the most basic idea of a right is that of a(n) _____ of one person against some other party.

*12. A rights-based theory is a moral theory according to which rights are more basic than right _____.

13. Virtue ethics makes the concepts of virtue and _____ central in moral theory.

*14. According to virtue ethics, an action is right if and only if (and because) it is what a virtuous agent, acting in _____, would not avoid doing in the circumstances under consideration.

15. According to the ethics of prima facie duty, when one prima facie duty prevails in some conflict-of-duties situation, it becomes one's _____ duty.

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*16. To say that one has a prima facie duty to perform some action is to say that one has some moral _____ to perform the action.

17. According to Timmons, different moral theories differ partly because of how they propose to _____ our moral thinking about practical issues.

*18. A moral theory the principles of which are extremely difficult to apply will be at odds with the principle of _____ guidance.

19. According to the _____ principle, which is a fundamental principle of justice proposed by John Rawls, social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are both (i) reasonably expected to be to everyone's advantage and (ii) attached to positions and offices open to all.

20. Rawls uses the label justice as _____ for his conception of justice.

Chapter 1 Answer Key

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. D
6. A
7. B
8. D
9. D
10. C
11. A
12. B
13. A
14. D
15. D
16. A
17. B
18. C
19. D
20. B
21. B
22. A
23. D
24. C
25. A
26. B
27. B
28. D
29. B
30. D

True/False Questions

1. T
2. F
3. F
4. F
5. T
6. T
7. T
11. F
12. T
13. T
14. F
15. F
16. F
17. T

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8. F
9. T
10. F
18. T
19. F
20. T

Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

1. optional
2. value-neutral
3. theoretical
4. comparative
5. pain
6. Act
7. necessity
8. nature
9. golden
10. Humanity
11. claim
12. action
13. vice
14. character
15. all-things-considered
16. reason
17. organize
18. practical
19. difference
20. fairness

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