Test Bank for College Ethics A Reader on Moral Issues That Affect You 1st Fischer

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Instructor's Manual
College Ethics
Bob Fischer

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John Corvino, "Why Shouldn't Tommy and Jim Have Sex?"

Essay Questions

There has been a massive change in people's attitudes toward homosexuality over the last few decades. Indeed, many people now regard it as obvious that there's nothing wrong with homosexuality. In such a context, why bother thinking about arguments against gay sex?

A good essay will either:

- Argue that we aren't as far along with respect to public opinion re: the moral permissibility of homosexuality (offering some evidence for this) or
- Argue that there is some other value in thinking about these arguments, such as (a) it is an exercise in critical thinking, (b) it prevents us from believing something simply because other progressive individuals believe it, or (c) it allows us to engage in better dialogue with those who aren't impressed by the progressive consensus.

Could it ever be wrong to debate whether something is morally OK? That is, could it ever be *so* clear that something is morally OK (or morally wrong) that we shouldn't even discuss it anymore? If so, when might that happen? If not, why couldn't it happen?

A good essay will:

- Include a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Clearly and succinctly state the main argument for the thesis.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

People often appeal to considerations about naturalness when it comes to eating animals. ("Our ancestors ate meat!" "We've got canines for a reason!" "Other animals eat animals, so why can't we?") Do any of these considerations survive Corvino's criticisms of naturalness as a guide in ethics? If so, which ones? If not, then what (if anything) does that mean for the ethics of eating animals?

A good essay will either:

- Articulate a few different ways that people might appeal to naturalness when it comes to eating animals, and argue that each is vulnerable to an objection that parallels one that Corvino gives, or
- Articulate at least one way that people might appeal to naturalness when it comes to eating animals, and defend it against parallels to the objections that Corvino gives.
- In either case, one significant mark of a well-written essay is that it contains clear and accurate summaries of Corvino's objections and clear and plausible adaptations of those objections to the ethics of eating meat.

Quiz Questions

1. *Corvino compares the Bible's position on gay sex to the Bible's position on
   a. lust.
   b. idolatry.
   c. usury.

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d. adultery.

2. Corvino argues that, because the Bible has been shown to be wrong before, we don't need to trust what it says about gay sex.
    a. True
    b. False

3. *The so-called argument from tradition says that gay sex is wrong because
    a. it leads to incest or polygamy or bestiality.
    b. most people say it's wrong.
    c. we've always been taught that it's wrong.
    d. it's unnatural.

4. Corvino argues that if you were born with homosexual tendencies, it follows that you ought to act on them.
    a. True
    b. False

5. *Against the argument that homosexual is wrong because it violates the natural purpose of our genitalia, Corvino argues
    a. that our genitalia don't have natural purposes.
    b. that homosexual sex is the natural purpose of our genitalia.
    c. that the natural purpose of an organ is irrelevant to what it's permissible to do with that organ.
    d. that we're morally obligated to violate the natural purposes of our genitalia.

6. Corvino says that, at best, the charge that homosexuality is unnatural is
    a. a political judgment.
    b. a legal judgment.
    c. an aesthetic judgment.
    d. a historical judgment.

7. *Corvino says that in Greek society homosexual relationships often involved
    a. slaves.
    b. older men and younger boys.
    c. prisoners of war.
    d. soldiers and civilians.

8. Corvino says that we normally don't view violations of religious teaching as occasions for moral censure because
    a. no religion is true.
    b. we reserve moral censure for violations that can be independently justified.
    c. we reserve moral censure for violations of our own religion's teachings.
    d. it's wrong to morally censure someone else.

9. *Corvino agrees with the Ramsey Colloquium that the "statistical frequency of an act does not determine its moral status." This means:
    a. Uncommon acts are usually morally wrong.

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b. You need to look at the statistics about the consequences of a type of action to assess whether actions of that type are wrong.
c. You don't need to look at the statistics about the consequences of a type of action to assess whether actions of that type are wrong.
d. The ethics of an action have nothing to do with how common it is.

10. The Bible contains lots of strange passages. Still, Corvino says that people can still say that the Bible is inerrant because:
    a. They learn to ignore those passages.
    b. They learn to accept the face-value interpretations of those passages.
    c. They learn to interpret those passages in their historical context.
    d. They learn to interpret those passages in a new supernatural context.

Media Links

Is Homosexuality Unnatural?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlQvf7IVxao

Homosexuality & The Bible
Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN7E8UCsJ_M
Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDN-ZbpVSP8

William Stephens, "What's Love Got to Do with It: Epicureanism and Friends with Benefits"

Essay Questions

Imagine and describe a scenario in which a friend of yours is trying to decide whether to pursue a "friends with benefits" arrangement (with someone else—not you). Then, summarize Stephens's advice to your friend. After that, explain why you agree or disagree with Stephens's advice.

A good essay will:
- Accurately summarize Stephen's advice (avoid sex with friends because friendship is more valuable—the goods of friendship are deeper and more lasting than the goods of sex)
- Defend a perspective on Stephen's advice that's focused and appropriate given the assignment
- Clearly and succinctly state the main argument for that perspective.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

The Epicurean criticism of "friends with benefits" arrangements is based, in part, on the value of friendship. Why do Epicureans assert friendship is so valuable? Assuming that they're right about its value, does their view imply that you also shouldn't go into business with your friends either? Why or why not?

A good essay will:

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- Accurately summarize Stephen's advice (avoid sex with friends because friendship is more valuable-—the goods of friendship are deeper and more lasting than the goods of sex)
- Argue that given the Epicurean framework, either (a) sex and business are sufficiently similar to make it unwise to go into business with friends, addressing at least a few potential disanalogies between business and sex, or (b) sex and business are sufficiently *dissimilar* that the value of friendship provides no reason to avoid going into business with friends, being careful to address at least a few potential similarities between business and sex.

Someone might take this line: "People want friends with benefits because they want sex without commitment. But if someone wants to have sex with you without committing to you, that person wants to use you. So, you shouldn't have friends with benefits." Is this a good criticism of having friends with benefits? Why or why not?

A good essay will:

- Include a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Clearly and succinctly state the main argument for the thesis.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

Quiz Questions

1. *According to Epicureans, the good life is:
   a. The pleasant life
   b. The chaste life
   c. The passionate life
   d. The wise life

2. According to Epicureans, happiness consists in:
   a. Freedom from pain
   b. Chastity
   c. Learning to accept that many of your desires will be fulfilled
   d. Living a passionate life

3. *According to the Greeks, *ataraxia* is:
   a. The tragic state of being enslaved by anxiety
   b. The ideal state of freedom from anxiety
   c. Unfulfilled desire
   d. Fulfilled desire

4. According to Epicureans, natural desires are:
   a. Desires that always lead to *ataraxia*
   b. Desires that you can't be blamed for having
   c. Desires that can't be eliminated
   d. Always bad for you

5. *According to Epicureans, the fundamental problem with "vain and empty" desires is that:

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   a. **They endanger your *ataraxia***
   b. They create *ataraxia*
   c. They lead you to take unnecessary risks
   d. They make you too cautious

6. According to Epicurus, passions:
   a. **Involve excessive desire**
   b. Involve insufficient desire
   c. Make us excessively sensitive to risk
   d. Are what make life worth living

7. *Stephens claims that Hollywood stars:
   a. **Make horrible models for personal relationships**
   b. Enjoy fairly-tale lives, but those lives are inaccessible to most people
   c. Can't enjoy ataraxia because of the environment they inhabit
   d. Must be good at controlling their unnatural desires, since they wouldn't be so successful otherwise

8. According to Stephens, friendship is so valuable because it helps us avoid *ataraxia*.
   a. True
   b. False

9. *According to Stephens, the problem with the images that Hollywood promotes is that they set up impossible expectations.
   a. True
   b. False

10. According to Stephens, the desire for friendship is a valuable but unnatural desire.
   a. True
   b. False

Media Links

Friends with Benefits: Is It possible?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3YlEdfHqoM

Is Friend With Benefits Really Possible?
http://thecollegecrush.com/is-it-really-possible-to-have-a-friend-with-benefits/

Raja Halwani, "Virtue Ethics, Casual Sex, and Objectification"

Essay Questions

Describe three cases of casual sex that Halwani would consider to be morally problematic *for different reasons*. Then, explain why he would think that each one is morally problematic, and describe how the

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cases would have to change before Halwani would say that these sexual encounters are morally permissible.

A good essay will:

- Complete the assignment by (a) detailing three cases, (b) explaining why Halwani would criticize each case, and (c) explaining what would need to change about each case to avoid that criticism *without making the case vulnerable to a new criticism*.
- Accurately summarizing and applying Halwani's criticisms of certain causal sexual encounters.

Some people say that sex is OK as long as (a) everyone consents and (b) no one gets hurt. Does the worry that you might objectify your sexual partner show that this idea is mistaken? Justify your answer.

A good essay will:

- Offer a plausible account of what someone might mean by "the worry that you might objectify your sexual partner."
- Defend a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Clearly and succinctly state the main argument for the thesis. If the essay defends the original idea, it should consider why someone might think that objectification can't be avoided simply by consenting to the act; if the essay criticizes the original idea, it should consider why someone might think that objectification *can* be avoided simply through securing consent.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

Halwani focuses on Kantian and virtue ethical concerns about casual sex. What about utilitarian concerns? Develop either a utilitarian argument for or against having casual sex on a regular basis (where you define what counts as "casual sex on a regular basis").

A good essay will:

- Include a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Specify what the student means by "casual sex on a regular basis."
- Clearly and succinctly state a *utilitarian* argument for the essay's thesis.
- Offer a plausible account of the costs *and* benefits of the behavior in question that favors the essay's thesis.

Quiz Questions

1. *According to Halwani, you can have casual sex without intending to have casual sex.
   a. True
   b. False

2. According to Aristotle, being courageous involves:
   a. Behaving courageously.
   b. Behaving courageously and feeling the appropriate feelings for the situation.
   c. Behaving courageously, feeling the appropriate feelings for the situation, and acting for the right reasons.

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d. Behaving courageously, feeling the appropriate feelings for the situation, acting for the right reasons, and producing the best outcome.

3. *According to Halwani, virtue ethics is inherently in favor of casual sex.
    a. True
    b. False

4. Halwani says that casual sex must meet two conditions to be morally permissible from a virtue-ethical perspective. They are that the agent's desire for casual sex should not consume her or her life and:
    a. Everyone should enthusiastically consent to the sexual encounter.
    b. Casual sex must be engaged in for the right reason.
    c. Money should not be exchanged.
    d. The sexual encounter should be based on love and mutual respect.

5. *To objectify someone is to treat that person objectively.
    a. True
    b. False

6. Halwani discusses Martha Nussbaum's conception of objectification, which includes:
    a. Instrumentality and fungibility
    b. Objectivity and fungibility
    c. Corruptibility and harm
    d. Corruptibility and devaluing

7. *According to Halwani, it's always wrong to consider people to be interchangeable with other objects of the same type.
    a. True
    b. False

8. According to Halwani, you can objectify someone without intending to objectify that person.
    a. True
    b. False

9. *According to Halwani, objectification has its natural home in:
    a. Kantian ethics
    b. Virtue ethics
    c. Utilitarianism
    d. Social contract theory

10. Essentially, Halwani's view is that sex is OK as long as everyone consents and no one gets hurt.
    a. True
    b. False

Media Links
Is Casual Sex Bad For You? | Dr. Zhana Vrangalova
http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/Is-Casual-Sex-Bad-For-You-Dr-Zh

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Conor Kelly, "Sexism in Practice: Feminist Ethics Evaluating the Hookup Culture"

Essay

Kelly is pretty critical of hookup culture. In light of all those criticisms, what's the best defense of hookup culture that you can offer? And how might Kelly respond?

A good essay will:

- Offer a defense of hookup culture that makes a serious attempt to respond to Kelly's concerns about it.
- Accurately summarize, and then apply, Kelly's ideas to the defense just offered. Specifically, the essay should discuss why Kelly thinks that hookup culture undermines the freedom, equality, and safety of women on campus.

Is hookup culture fixable? That is, can you imagine ways to reform hookup culture so that it doesn't have the negative consequences that Kelly discusses? If so, what might those reforms be? If not, then what does that imply about hookup culture generally, as well as the people who participate in it?

A good essay will either:

- Demonstrate an understanding of Kelly's worries about hookup culture, and offer some ways of reforming hookup culture where it's plausible that if those reforms were widely adopted, they would address Kelly's worries, or
- Explain why we should be skeptical of the idea that hookup culture would be reformed (e.g., by arguing that any plausible reform would just produce something other than hookup culture), and then offer focused reasons to take particular stances on both hookup culture generally and those who participate in it.

Kelly is arguing that hookup culture is sexist, by which he means that it systematically disadvantages women. Why, exactly, does he think this? Do you agree that it's sexist? Why or why not? (If you think that it *is* sexist, do you think that Kelly has identified all the ways in which hookup culture systematically disadvantages women?)

A good essay will:

- Accurately summarize Kelly's definition of sexism and his view about why the four features of hookup culture—namely, lack of commitment, ambiguous language, alcohol use, and social pressure to conform—undermine the freedom, equality, and safety of women on campus.
- Include a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Clearly and succinctly state the argument for the essay's thesis.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

Quiz Questions

1. *According to Kelly, the primary thing that men and women seek to avoid in the hookup culture is:

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a. A long-term relationship
b. Love
c. Sex
d. Developing fully autonomous selves

2. Kelly discusses the idea that that the hookup culture is a reversal of the dating script. The idea here is that:
   a. Things used to evolve from emotional to physical; they now go the other way.
   b. College students used to be interested in dating, but they now regard dating as passé.
   c. Dating is slowly replacing the hookup culture, reversing the importance of hookup culture on campuses.
   d. Hookup culture reverses the emphasis on sex that was so important to the dating scene.

3. *When Kelly complains that the term "hookup" is ambiguous, he's saying:
   a. That we don't have a workable definition of "hookup."
   b. That the term "hookup" doesn't tell you what people are actually doing together.
   c. That it isn't clear how to distinguish "hookups" from "one night stands."
   d. That hookups have made it hard to tell when people are in relationships.

4. Kelly says that the freedom people feel within hookup culture is an illusion. This is because:
   a. No one is free to avoid the system altogether.
   b. You can't hookup with just anyone.
   c. Hookup culture involves a lot of alcohol, and you aren't in control when you're drinking.
   d. Hookup culture prevents us from realizing our true selves.

5. *Kelly criticizes the idea that hookup culture promotes independence. On that view, hookup culture promotes independence because:
   a. It's an improvement over earlier systems where parents arranged dating relationships.
   b. It allows people to have sex with as many different partners as they'd like.
   c. It allows people to have sex without commitment.
   d. It's a system where men can be sexually liberated.

6. Kelly is concerned about people trying to separate emotions from sex. This is because:
   a. He argues that sex is better when it's emotionally meaningful.
   b. He thinks that keeping those things connected is crucial for developing virtue.
   c. He doubts that it's possible to separate those things.
   d. He doubts that we can separate those things without harming our ability to have long-term relationships.

7. *Kelly worries women are at a greater risk of rape and sexual assault due to:
   a. The influence of sorority culture on campuses.
   b. Alcohol.
   c. Pressure to "unwind" and "relax" in a demanding academic environment.
   d. Understaffed campus police forces.

8. Kelly claims that women who want to hook up *without having sex* face particularly high risks. This is because:

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a. Very few people will want to hook up with a person who isn't interested in going "all the way."
b. When women say that they aren't interested in having sex, they are permanently branded as "prudes."
c. Some men feel entitled to have sex once a physical encounter has begun.
d. Women who didn't plan to have sex are less likely to use contraception in the event that they do decide to have sex.

9. *According to Kelly, most men are interested in hooking up with known "sluts," which makes women willing to take on labels that they wouldn't otherwise want.
    a. True
    b. False

10. According to Kelly, hookup culture itself isn't sexist, but the men who participate in it are.
    a. True
    b. False

Media Links

College students open up on campus hookup culture
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJemckBlP64

Laurie Shrage and Robert Stewart, "Sexual Privacy"

Essay Questions

Imagine that your friend starts sending you some sexy pictures of his or her ex along with some mocking commentary. (This is how he or she is trying to "get over" his or her ex.) Is it wrong for your friend to do this? Why or why not?

A good essay will:
- Include a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Offer an argument for the thesis that demonstrates an appreciation of the distinctions and moral considerations that Shrage and Stewart discuss.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

You suspect that your roommate is having sex with one of your friends in your dorm room, and you'd like to know whether you're right. Discuss this issue in light of the conventional, "core person," and "differentiating relationships" views of privacy.

A good essay will:
- Correctly explain the conventional, "core person," and "differentiating relationships" views of privacy.

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- Offer plausible applications of those views to the ethics of investigating the friend's activities, being sure to distinguish moral concerns that arise from those views and other moral concerns that might be relevant.

You're at a club and you see someone you know grinding on someone else. The person you know isn't aware that you're there. Would it be wrong to tell your roommate about this when you get home? Why or why not? Would it be wrong to discuss the situation in a class, assuming that you don't use the person's name? Why or why not? Would it be wrong to post something on social media about how awkward it was to see this person grinding on someone, assuming that you don't use the person's name? Why or why not? Would it ever be OK to post about this person's activities on social media *using his or her name*? Why or why not?

A good essay will:

- Discuss all four scenarios.
- Articulate a position with respect to each case that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Offer reasons for each position taken that demonstrate an appreciation of the distinctions and moral considerations that Shrage and Stewart discuss.

Quiz Questions

1. *Shrage and Stewart say that they're going to focus on decisional privacy.
    a. True
    b. False

2. According to Shrage and Stewart, all sexual conduct is physically private.
    a. True
    b. False

3. *According to the conventional view of privacy, privacy is important because:
    a. It enables us to keep our secrets.
    b. There are parts of myself that I show only to some of the people with whom I interact.
    c. It protects our fundamental identities.
    d. It helps us separate kinds of relationships.

4. According to the "core person" view of privacy, privacy is important because:
    a. It enables us to keep our secrets.
    b. There are parts of myself that I show only to some of the people with whom I interact.
    c. It protects our fundamental identities.
    d. It helps us separate kinds of relationships.

5. *According to the "differentiating relationships" view of privacy, privacy is important because:
    a. It enables us to keep our secrets.
    b. There are parts of myself that I show only to some of the people with whom I interact.
    c. It protects our fundamental identities.
    d. It helps us separate kinds of relationships.

6. In the Rehtaeh Parsons case:

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