# Test Bank for Exploring Ethics Introductory Anthology 5th Cahn

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# *Exploring Ethics:*
# Teaching Materials

5th Edition

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## Chapter 1: Morality and Moral Philosophy

William K. Frankena

Describing Socrates as the "patron saint of moral philosophy," Frankena uses the scenario of the *Crito* as a paradigmatic example of moral reasoning. Socrates insists on approaching the moral question at hand—Should Socrates escape from prison?—without giving any weight to his (or Crito's) feelings, to the opinions of others, or to the cost of remaining faithful to moral principle, which in the present case could not be any higher. He appeals to a general rule, determines that his situation falls under that rule, and finally draws a conclusion about what he must do—namely, refuse Crito's suggestion that he escape.

Here, Frankena explains, Socrates is engaged in ethics, the branch of philosophy dealing with morality, moral problems, and moral judgments. More specifically, he is engaged in normative reflection, which attempts to identify what is right, good, or obligatory. This is distinct from both descriptive inquiry, which attempts to describe or explain moral phenomena, and meta-ethics, which seeks to answer questions about the meaning or use of moral terms such as "right" or "good." On Frankena's view, ethics is concerned primarily with normative inquiry and secondarily with meta-ethics, but it also involves occasional forays into ethical description.

Essay

1. According to the Socratic view of morality summarized by Frankena, is a person brought up by immoral parents in a corrupt society capable of making correct moral judgments? Why or why not? Do you agree?

2. In defending his decision about whether to escape, Socrates offers three arguments that demonstrate a typical pattern of reasoning. Which of these arguments do you find most compelling? How might you rationally convince Socrates to change his mind?

3. People commonly choose to act to conform to popular opinion. If popular opinion led to the same conclusions arrived at through moral reasoning, would it still be important to engage in moral philosophy? Why or why not? Support your answer with an example.

Multiple Choice

1. A sociologist would typically be most concerned with which of the following?*
A. empirical inquiry intended to describe or explain moral phenomena
B. normative inquiry into what is right, good, and obligatory in general
C. normative inquiry into what is right, good, and obligatory in a particular case
D. analytical or critical inquiry into how ethical values are established or justified
Ans: A

2. Which of the following reasons does Socrates NOT give for obeying the law?
A. keep your promises
B. the larger community usually knows best
C. obey one's parents and teachers



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D. never harm others
Ans: B

3. A typical pattern of moral reasoning involves which of the following?*
A. a general moral rule or principle
B. a premise that involves a statement of fact
C. a meta-ethical question
D. both A and B
Ans: D

4. Frankena claims that we have begun to engage in moral philosophy when
A. we have begun to behave according to the rules of our society.
B. we have completely internalized the rules of our society.
C. we have learned to act according to our feelings.
D. we have begun to think for ourselves about moral questions.
Ans: D

5. To say that it is always wrong to harm someone is to make which of the following* kinds of claims?
A. normative
B. meta-ethical
C. empirical
D. descriptive
Ans: A

6. Someone who reflects on whether our moral judgments have any ultimate justification is engaged in what type of inquiry?
A. normative
B. meta-ethical
C. religious
D. descriptive
Ans: B

7. Descriptive claims are relevant to ethics because*
A. facts about what humans desire determine what makes an act right.
B. facts about psychological and anthropological theories bear on some normative and meta-ethical questions.
C. facts about the past may falsify some normative theories.
D. None of the above
Ans: B

<u>True or False</u>

1. Socrates believes that it is appropriate to act immorally if by doing so we can save* ourselves from serious harm.
A. True



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B. False
Ans: B

2. Normative ethics has to do with what people generally think about moral issues.
A. True
B. False
Ans: B

3. According to Frankena, moral philosophy arises when we no longer rely upon tradition to direct our behavior.*
A. True
B. False
Ans: A

4. The question “What does it mean to say that something is morally ‘right’ or good?” is meta-ethical.
A. True
B. False
Ans: A

5. According to Socrates, moral questions can and should be settled by reason.*
A. True
B. False
Ans: A

6. Socrates believes that doing the right thing means doing the thing that is most likely to maximize pleasure and minimize pain in any given situation.
A. True
B. False
Ans: B

7. Socrates gives a threefold argument to show that he ought to break the laws by escaping.*
A. True
B. False
Ans: B



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## Chapter 2: *Crito*
Plato

Socrates has just been convicted on trumped-up charges and sentenced to death by the Athenian populace. Outraged at the verdict, Socrates's friend Crito tries to convince him to accept his help in escaping from prison. Socrates, however, disregarding his physical safety and his public reputation, insists on remaining true to his moral principles until the very end. Attempting to identify those principles and to specify what they dictate in the present circumstances, Socrates first persuades Crito to agree that one should never mistreat another, even in return for being mistreated oneself. Second, he argues that by consenting to live under the protection of the Athenian state, he has tacitly promised to respect it as his virtual parent and teacher even when he disagrees with its judgments. Escaping would be mistreating the state and also breaking his solemn promise, and Socrates is unwilling to commit either injustice.

Essay

1. In the *Crito,* what arguments does Crito make to persuade Socrates to try to escape from prison? How does Socrates respond to these arguments? Who do you think has the stronger case and why?

2. The nation is at war, and your number in the recently reinstated military draft has just come up. The problem is that after serious reflection, you have concluded that the war is unjust. What advice might Socrates give you? Would you agree? What might you decide to do?

3. It is clear in the dialogue that Socrates is not guilty of the crime for which he is to be punished. Why, nonetheless, does Socrates think he must accept the punishment? Is Socrates making a mistake here? What might compel you to accept punishment for a crime you did not commit?

Multiple Choice

1. Socrates tells Crito that he should attempt to break out of prison if and only if doing so would be*
A. to his advantage.
B. harmful to his enemies and advantageous to his friends.
C. pleasing to the gods.
D. just.
And: D

2. When faced with a moral dilemma, which of the following, according to Socrates, should be taken into consideration?
A. the likely consequences of each possible course of action
B. the moral rightness or wrongness of each alternative
C. what others would do in similar circumstances



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D. all of the above
Ans: B

3. Socrates and Crito are engaged primarily in what type of inquiry?*
A. normative
B. descriptive
C. meta-ethical
D. psychological
Ans: A

4. Which of the following is NOT one of Socrates's reasons for refusing to escape?*
A. To disobey a legal judgment rendered by the proper authorities is to undermine the city as a whole.
B. He is guilty of the charges raised against him.
C. An unjust life is not worth living.
D. Citizens owe even more respect and deference to the state that nurtures them than they do to their own parents.
Ans: B

5. Socrates says he wants to debate escaping prison with Crito because
A. Socrates likes a good argument
B. Crito is still learning philosophy
C. Socrates wants to persuade Crito rather than act against his will
D. Crito is wrong and must be shown the truth
Ans: C

6. Which of the following would Socrates identify as the greatest evil?*
A. one's own death
B. the deaths of loved ones
C. suffering injustice
D. committing injustice
Ans: D

7. Socrates believes that through "popular opinion," the public at large
A. usually provides the right moral guidance
B. never provides the right moral guidance
C. is powerless to morally help or harm the individual
D. sometimes provides moral benefits to the individual
Ans: C

8. Socrates says that the laws of Athens have functioned in his life like
A. a ball and chain.
B. parents.
C. music.
D. the gods.
Ans: B



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9. Socrates claims that breaking out of prison would be wrong because*
A. it would amount to breaking his agreements.
B. it would put his friends in danger.
C. it would put his family in danger.
D. people would lose respect for him.
Ans: A

10. Which of the following adjectives best characterizes Socrates's attitude toward his own imminent death?
A. fearful
B. indifferent
C. eager
D. angry
Ans: B

True or False

1. Socrates believes that allowing the Athenians to carry out his unjust sentence would do serious harm to society.*
A. True
B. False
Ans: B

2. Socrates thinks one should disregard what most people believe about moral questions.
A. True
B. False
Ans: A

3. In the *Crito,* Socrates claims that it is permissible to commit injustice in return for injustice. *
A. True
B. False
Ans: B

4. According to Socrates, justice consists of treating others as they have treated you.
A. True
B. False
Ans: B

5. Socrates tells Crito that by choosing to live in a city, one agrees to live by its laws.*
A. True
B. False
Ans: A

6. Despite Crito's initial arguments, Socrates believes he would be doing harm to his friends



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and relatives by escaping.
A. True
B. False
Ans: A

7. Socrates would rather have been sentenced to exile than to death.*
A: True
B. False
Ans: B

8. Crito puts even less stock in popular opinion than does Socrates himself
A. True
B. False
Ans: B

9. By the end of the dialogue, Socrates seems to have persuaded Crito that escaping would be unjust.*
A. True
B. False
Ans: A

10. Socrates argues that breaking the law threatens the existence of society
A. True
B. False
Ans: A



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