

6. At the beginning of the classical period of ethical thought, rapid change was the taking place in Greek society: once an agrarian monarchy, it was beginning to be transformed into an _____

- a. absolute monarchy
- b. constitutional monarchy
- c. commercial, industrial democracy**
- d. hunting and gathering community

7. The _____, a group of itinerant teachers, questioned to what extent morality was a matter of nature and to what extent a matter of custom or tradition.

- a. Sophists**
- b. Platonists
- c. Hedonists
- d. Epicureans

8. Although Ethics of Care is not an exclusive feminist project, it is so closely tied to feminist ideas that Annette Baier dubs its male promoters _____

- a. sissy men
- b. macho men
- c. honorary women**
- d. honorable women

9. Utilitarianism is often described as being either _____

- a. act or rule**
- b. good or bad
- c. right or wrong
- d. permissible or forbidden

10. Ethical theories that emphasize right actions are incomplete because they neglect the question of _____

- a. character**
- b. social standing
- c. social responsibility
- d. political correctness

11. _____ is of the opinion that women and men merely have different virtues: men's virtues fit them for leadership while women's virtues fit them for home and hearth.

- a. Hobbes
- b. Socrates
- c. Aristotle**
- d. Rousseau

12. _____ posits that each person ought to pursue his or her own self-interest exclusively.

a. Ethical egoism

b. Moral relativism

c. Cultural relativism

d. Ethical subjectivism

13. St. Augustine, the 4th century Christian thinker, distrusted _____ and believed that moral goodness depends on subordinating oneself to the will of God.

a. reason

b. egoism

c. emotion

d. subjectivism

14. When medieval philosophers discussed the virtues, it was always in the context of Divine Law, and the _____ of faith, hope, charity and obedience.

a. theological virtues

b. theosophical virtues

c. philosophical virtues

d. social contract virtues

15. Which feminist philosopher says that human care should play a central role in moral decision-making and that Ethics begin with particular relationships and there are always two parties in any relation, the one caring and the one cared for?

a. Ayn Rand

b. Carol Gilligan

c. NelNoddings

d. Elizabeth Anscombe

16. Which psychologist was instrumental in making feelings the dominant ethical standard in the space of a few decades?

a. Carl Jung

b. Carl Rogers

c. Alfred Adler

d. William J. Doherty

17. The emphasis on personal relationships to the exclusion of an obligation to the rest of humanity does not seem to be either moral or rational and therefore raises a doubt about the _____ as a complete moral system.

a. ethics of care

b. ethical egoism

c. ethics of virtue

d. social contract theory

18. While St. Thomas Aquinas demonstrated the harmony between _____ and Christianity, Augustine made _____'s philosophy the basis of Christian ethics,

a. Kant, Mills

b. Plato, Aristotle

c. Aristotle, Plato

d. Socrates, Aristotle

19. According to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, an organization is seen as _____ by its commitment to contribute to sustainable economic development and to improve the quality of life of their employees, their families, the local community and the society at large.

a. morally excellent

b. politically correct

c. morally committed

d. socially responsible

20. _____ is the belief that different societies have different moral codes.

a. Feminism

b. Ethnocentrism

c. Cultural relativism

d. Cultural subjectivism

Section – Discussion and Exposition (40Marks)

Instruction: Answer FOUR of the following questions.

1. What should a complete theory of virtue consist of?

Ans:- A complete theory of virtue should encompass various aspects of moral character and behavior. It typically includes:

Moral virtues:- These are positive character traits such as honesty, courage, integrity, and compassion. A virtuous person is expected to cultivate and exhibit these qualities.

Intellectual virtues:- Beyond moral traits, a comprehensive theory of virtue may include intellectual virtues like wisdom, curiosity, and open-mindedness. These virtues contribute to one's ability to make sound moral judgments and engage in ethical reasoning.

Developmental aspect:- Virtue ethics often emphasizes the importance of character development over time. A complete theory of virtue should provide guidance on how individuals can cultivate virtues and grow morally throughout their lives.

Practical application:- Virtue theory should offer practical guidance on how to apply virtues in real-life situations. This involves understanding the nuances of specific contexts and making morally informed decisions.

Cultural and contextual considerations:- Virtue ethics recognizes that virtues can manifest differently in various cultural and social contexts. A comprehensive theory should be flexible enough to accommodate diverse cultural perspectives while maintaining a core set of universal virtues.

Balance and moderation:- Many virtue theories stress the importance of finding a balanced and moderate approach to virtue. This involves avoiding extremes and finding the mean between deficiencies and excesses in behavior.

In essence, a complete theory of virtue should provide a holistic framework for understanding, developing, and applying virtuous qualities in both personal and social contexts.

2. How do we deal with inequality, injustice and practices that are culturally unacceptable to us?

Ans:- Dealing with inequality, injustice, and culturally unacceptable practices requires a multifaceted approach:

Promoting awareness:- Education and awareness play a crucial role in addressing societal issues. Creating awareness about the consequences of inequality, injustice, and culturally unacceptable practices can mobilize public support for change.

Advocacy for change:- Individuals and organizations can actively advocate for policy changes and legal reforms to address systemic issues. This may involve supporting or joining movements that aim to rectify injustices and promote equality.

Promoting dialogue:- Engaging in open and respectful dialogue is essential for understanding diverse perspectives and finding common ground. Constructive conversations can challenge cultural norms and foster empathy, leading to positive social change.

Legislation and policy:- Governments and institutions can implement and enforce laws and policies that promote equality and justice. This includes addressing discriminatory practices and ensuring equal opportunities for all members of society.

Community engagement:- Empowering local communities to address their specific challenges can be effective. Community-based initiatives and grassroots movements can bring about positive change by addressing issues at the local level.

Cultural diplomacy:- Encouraging cultural exchange and diplomacy can help bridge cultural gaps and challenge practices that are deemed unacceptable. This involves fostering mutual understanding and respect between different cultures.

Dealing with these complex issues requires a collaborative and persistent effort from individuals, communities, governments, and international organizations.

3. What is Ayn Rand's argument for Ethical Egoism and what is the criticism leveled against it?

Ans:- Ayn Rand's argument for Ethical Egoism is grounded in her philosophy of Objectivism. She contends that individuals should act in their own rational self-interest, pursuing their own happiness as the highest moral goal.

Key points of her argument include:-

Rational self-interest:- Rand asserts that pursuing one's rational self-interest is a moral duty. By focusing on personal happiness and well-being, individuals contribute to the overall betterment of society.

Individual rights:- Rand advocates for the protection of individual rights, asserting that a society that respects individual rights fosters the conditions for human flourishing. This includes the right to property, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Rejecting altruism:- Rand criticizes altruism, arguing that sacrificing one's own well-being for the sake of others is morally wrong. She contends that individuals should not be compelled to serve the needs of others at the expense of their own happiness.

Critics of Ayn Rand's Ethical Egoism raise several objections:-

Lack of empathy:- Critics argue that Ethical Egoism neglects the importance of empathy and compassion in ethical decision-making. By prioritizing individual self-interest, the theory may undermine the value of caring for others.

Potential for exploitation:- Ethical Egoism, critics contend, could lead to a society where individuals exploit others for personal gain. The absence of moral constraints on pursuing self-interest may result in unjust and harmful behavior.

Incompatibility with social cooperation:- Some argue that a purely egoistic approach may hinder the collaborative efforts necessary for a functioning society. Ethical systems that emphasize cooperation and mutual benefit may be more conducive to societal harmony.

In summary, while Ayn Rand's Ethical Egoism emphasizes individual rights and self-interest, critics argue that it lacks a robust foundation for addressing the ethical importance of empathy, social cooperation, and the potential for exploitation.

4. Summarize the theory of classical utilitarianism Why is it considered an example of radical thought, of social reform and of changing the basis of morality?

Ans:- Classical utilitarianism, associated with philosophers like Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, is a consequentialist ethical theory that asserts that the morality of an action is determined by its overall utility or happiness produced.

Key elements of classical utilitarianism include:-

Principle of utility:- The fundamental principle of classical utilitarianism is the "greatest happiness principle" or the principle of utility. It states that actions are morally right to the extent that they promote the greatest happiness or pleasure for the greatest number of people.

Quantitative hedonism:- Bentham, a founder of classical utilitarianism, introduced the concept of quantitative hedonism, measuring pleasure and pain in terms of intensity and duration. Actions that maximize pleasure and minimize pain are considered morally right.

Higher and lower pleasures:- Mill expanded on Bentham's ideas by introducing the distinction between higher and lower pleasures. He argued that intellectual and moral pleasures are qualitatively superior to mere sensual pleasures.

Classical utilitarianism is considered an example of radical thought, social reform, and changing the basis of morality for several reasons:-

Social reform:- Utilitarianism advocates for social policies and actions that maximize overall happiness. This has been influential in movements advocating for social justice, human rights, and the well-being of the greatest number of people.

Changing the basis of morality:- Classical utilitarianism challenges traditional deontological and virtue-based ethical theories by basing morality on the consequences of actions. This shift from inherent moral principles to a consequentialist framework represented a significant departure from established moral philosophies.

Radical thought:- The idea that the moral value of an action is determined by its consequences was considered radical in contrast to more traditional, rule-based ethical theories. The emphasis on promoting the greatest overall happiness challenged existing norms and contributed to a more utilitarian approach to moral decision-making.

In summary, classical utilitarianism is considered radical because it advocates for social reform, challenges traditional moral foundations, and prioritizes the pursuit of overall happiness as the basis of morality.

5. The public demand to see proof that organizations are not only financially successful, but that they also contribute positively to the community and environment. In the context of organizations, social responsibility means implementing the "new" rules of corporate conduct.

Explain

Ans:- The demand for organizations to demonstrate not only financial success but also positive contributions to the community and environment reflects a growing emphasis on corporate social responsibility (CSR). In the context of organizations, social responsibility involves implementing the "new" rules of corporate conduct, which include:-

Environmental sustainability:- Organizations are expected to minimize their negative impact on the environment and actively engage in practices that promote sustainability. This may involve reducing carbon emissions, conserving natural resources, and adopting eco-friendly business practices.

Community engagement:- Beyond profit-making, companies are now expected to contribute positively to the communities in which they operate. This includes supporting local initiatives, investing in community development projects, and fostering a positive social impact.

Ethical business practices:- The "new" rules of corporate conduct emphasize the importance of ethical behavior in all aspects of business operations. This involves conducting business with integrity, transparency, and fairness, and avoiding practices that harm stakeholders or violate ethical norms.

Employee well-being:- Companies are increasingly being held accountable for the well-being of their employees. This includes providing fair wages, ensuring a safe and inclusive work environment, and offering opportunities for professional development.

Social innovation:- Social responsibility involves innovation in business practices to address societal challenges. Companies are encouraged to develop products and services that contribute to social good, address environmental concerns, and improve overall well-being.

Stakeholder engagement:- Organizations are expected to consider the interests of a broader range of stakeholders, including customers, employees, suppliers, and the community. This shift moves away from a narrow focus on shareholder value to a more inclusive approach that considers the impact on all stakeholders.

In summary, the "new" rules of corporate conduct reflect a paradigm shift in how organizations are expected to operate. Social responsibility goes beyond financial success to encompass ethical, environmental, and social considerations, aligning business objectives with broader societal goals. This approach not only meets the expectations of an increasingly socially conscious public but also contributes to sustainable and responsible business practices.

SECTION C-CRITICAL ESSAY (40 MARKS)

Instructions: Answer TWO of the following questions.

1. In the Ford Motor Company case, a fault was discovered on the Pintos, whose design and production were rushed and squeezed to sell the car for under \$2000. In several tests, Ford Motor Company discovered that in rear end collisions, the fuel tank would explode causing death or injury. To put it right would have meant recalling all Ford Pintos of about 11 million cars. It will cost \$ 11 to put a safety shield in each car. The overall bill was estimated at \$137 million. Their estimate was 180 deaths, 180 serious burn injuries and 2100 vehicles lost. Ford then calculated the likely number of accidents resulting from this fault. The cost to the company, who would have to pay out in law suits, was estimated at \$49.5 million. In other words, it would be cheaper not to recall the cars, and to pay out when people started dying or are injured as a result of the fault. Discuss the ethics of this case, particularly with regards to the cost-benefit analysis from the utilitarian and Kantian point of view.

Ans:- The Ford Pinto case is a notorious example of ethical dilemmas in business decision-making. The central ethical issue revolves around the cost-benefit analysis conducted by Ford Motor Company regarding the safety concerns of the Pinto's design. This analysis weighed the cost of recalling and fixing the faulty vehicles against the potential costs of legal settlements and damages resulting from accidents caused by the design flaw.

Utilitarian Perspective

Utilitarianism is a consequentialist ethical theory that suggests that the morality of an action is determined by its overall consequences. From a utilitarian standpoint, the Ford Pinto case raises concerns about prioritizing the greater good for the majority over the potential harm to a few. In this case, Ford's decision not to recall the Pintos was based on a cost-benefit analysis that favored financial savings over human lives.

Pros of the Utilitarian Perspective

- 1. Economic Efficiency:-** Ford's decision was economically efficient in the short term, saving the company a significant amount of money.
- 2. Access to Affordable Cars:-** Keeping the cost of the Pinto low allowed more people to afford cars, contributing to greater accessibility and mobility.

Cons of the Utilitarian Perspective

- 1. Human Lives Sacrificed:-** The decision put the lives and safety of Pinto drivers and passengers at risk, leading to deaths and injuries that could have been prevented.
- 2. Long-term Reputational Damage:-** The negative consequences for Ford's reputation and consumer trust in the long run could outweigh the short-term financial benefits.

Kantian Perspective

Immanuel Kant's ethical philosophy emphasizes the importance of moral duties and principles, irrespective of the consequences. According to Kantian ethics, certain actions are inherently right or wrong, regardless of the outcomes they produce. In the Ford Pinto case, the decision not to recall the vehicles may be seen as a violation of the duty to prioritize human safety.

Pros of the Kantian Perspective

- 1. Respect for Human Dignity:-** Prioritizing the safety of individuals demonstrates respect for the inherent value and dignity of human life.
- 2. Adherence to Universal Principles:-** Kantian ethics requires acting according to principles that could be universally applied. In this case, a principle of prioritizing safety over profit might be seen as ethically sound.

Cons of the Kantian Perspective

- 1. Conflict with Business Goals:-** The stringent adherence to moral principles could conflict with the goal of maximizing profit, creating challenges for businesses in competitive markets.
- 2. Complex Decision-making:-** Kantian ethics does not provide clear guidance on how to navigate conflicting duties. In this case, the duty to protect human life may conflict with the duty to maximize shareholder value.

From a utilitarian perspective, Ford's decision not to recall the Pintos may be deemed unethical as it prioritized financial gain over human lives. On the other hand, a Kantian perspective would criticize the decision for violating the duty to prioritize human safety and dignity. Ultimately, the Ford Pinto case underscores the complex ethical considerations that arise when businesses engage in cost-benefit analyses that involve human safety and well-being. It serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of ethical decision-making in the corporate world, especially when human lives are at stake.

2. Some senators threaten to block any candidates for superior courts who are not in line with their thinking, for instance being avowedly pro-choice on abortion. Critics say that such a requirement for prospective judges is a disservice to them and to the country because it refuses to allow what has traditionally been considered essential in judges—an open mind on all issues. Discuss the moral dimension of this issue, in the light of the separation of powers and the checks and balance that is expected of the three arms of government: the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary.

(Adapted from Vincent Ryan Ruggiero's book, "Thinking Critically About Ethical Issues" 2012, p.161)

Ans:- The issue of senators threatening to block judicial candidates based on their alignment with specific ideological positions, such as being avowedly pro-choice on abortion, raises significant moral concerns within the context of the separation of powers and the checks and balances inherent in a democratic system. This scenario touches upon the delicate balance that should exist among the three branches of government—the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary—and the ethical considerations associated with maintaining this balance.

1. Separation of Powers

The concept of the separation of powers is a fundamental principle in democratic governance, designed to prevent the abuse of authority and to ensure that no single branch of government becomes too powerful. The Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches are meant to operate independently within their spheres of influence. Threatening to block judicial candidates based on ideological grounds blurs these lines and undermines the separation of powers. It implies an attempt by one branch (Legislative) to exert undue influence over another (Judiciary), compromising the integrity of the system.

2. Checks and Balances

The system of checks and balances is intended to ensure that no branch of government becomes dominant or infringes upon the rights and responsibilities of the others. The Legislative branch's role in confirming judicial appointments is a crucial check on the power of the Executive branch, but it should be exercised responsibly and without imposing ideological litmus tests. Using such tests may disrupt the delicate equilibrium envisioned by the framers of the Constitution, potentially allowing a single branch to wield disproportionate influence over the others.

3. Judicial Independence

Judicial independence is a cornerstone of a fair and impartial judiciary. Judges must be able to make decisions based on the law and the Constitution rather than being pressured by political considerations. Threatening to block judicial candidates based on their ideological stance on a specific issue undermines the independence of the judiciary. It suggests a willingness to prioritize political or social agendas over the impartial administration of justice.

4. Open-mindedness and Ethical Judgment

Critics rightly point out that requiring judicial candidates to adhere to a specific stance on a particular issue, such as abortion, contradicts the traditional expectation of judges having an open mind on all issues. Judicial decisions should be based on a careful and impartial examination of the law and facts, rather than predetermined ideological positions. The moral dimension of this issue lies in the ethical obligation of senators to uphold the principles of fairness, justice, and the rule of law, rather than imposing ideological litmus tests.

5. Public Trust and Legitimacy

The perceived politicization of the judicial appointment process can erode public trust in the legal system. When citizens perceive that judges are selected based on their alignment with specific political or ideological agendas, rather than their qualifications and commitment to the law, it undermines the legitimacy of the judiciary. Upholding the moral dimension of this issue requires senators to prioritize the long-term health and credibility of the justice system over short-term political gains.

In conclusion, the moral dimension of senators threatening to block judicial candidates based on ideological grounds is deeply rooted in the principles of the separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial independence, open-mindedness, and the ethical responsibility to maintain a fair and impartial judiciary. Upholding these principles is essential for the preservation of a democratic system that respects the rule of law and protects the rights of all citizens.

3. Jane Doe, a mother of three children is facing a dilemma. She had just had another pregnancy and talked it over with her husband. The husband was shocked. He said he is not prepared to have another baby. He is planning a career change soon to stem the staleness that fourteen years with the same investment banking firm had brought him. A new baby would preclude that option. The timing wasn't right for her, either. She has just got a full time job and juggling her time between the baby and the job would be very stressful. They realized the timing was not right. There just wasn't room in their lives now to have another baby. They decided to go for an abortion. Though Jane Doe was filled with a sense of guilt in disposing the fetus, the husband rationalized their decision by saying that a fetus is just a bunch of cells. Argue the ethics of abortion from the Kantian utilitarian and virtue ethics perspectives.

Ans:-

Kantian Perspective

Immanuel Kant's ethical framework is deontological, meaning it focuses on the inherent nature of actions rather than their consequences. According to Kant, actions are morally right if they adhere to a universalizable principle or maxim. From a Kantian perspective, the ethical evaluation of abortion revolves around the principle of treating individuals with inherent dignity and respect.

In the case of Jane Doe and her husband, a Kantian analysis might emphasize the moral duty to respect the inherent value of human life. Kant would argue that terminating a pregnancy goes against the principle of treating every human being as an end in themselves, rather than as a means to an end. The fetus, according to Kantian ethics, possesses moral significance as a potential rational being, and thus, ending its life would be considered morally impermissible.

However, Kant's philosophy also emphasizes the importance of autonomy and rationality. In this case, one could argue that Jane Doe's autonomy and her husband's rational decision-making process should be respected. A Kantian might assert that the decision to have an abortion, if made after careful deliberation and consideration of the circumstances, can be seen as an exercise of individual autonomy within the moral framework.

Utilitarian Perspective

Utilitarianism, on the other hand, evaluates the morality of actions based on their consequences and the overall happiness or pleasure they produce. From a utilitarian standpoint, the decision to have an abortion would be assessed by considering the impact on the well-being and happiness of the individuals involved, as well as society as a whole.

In the case of Jane Doe and her husband, a utilitarian might argue that the decision to have an abortion could be justified if it leads to a greater overall happiness. Factors such as the emotional and financial strain of raising another child, the potential impact on the well-being of the existing children, and the parents' ability to pursue their own life goals and happiness would be taken into account.

Utilitarianism could support the decision if it is perceived that the negative consequences of bringing another child into their lives would outweigh the potential positive outcomes. However, it's essential to acknowledge that utilitarian calculations can be complex and subjective, as they involve predicting and weighing the various consequences of an action.

Virtue Ethics Perspective

Virtue ethics focuses on the development of moral character and virtues. It considers what a virtuous person would do in a given situation. In this context, virtue ethics would analyze the character traits and virtues of Jane Doe and her husband.

From a virtue ethics standpoint, the decision to have an abortion would be evaluated based on whether it reflects virtuous qualities such as compassion, responsibility, and prudence. A virtue ethicist might consider the couple's ability to make a responsible and compassionate decision in the best interest of their family's well-being.

On the other hand, virtue ethics also emphasizes the importance of empathy and understanding. Jane Doe might experience guilt, indicating a moral conflict within her. A virtue ethicist would encourage an exploration of these feelings and seek a decision that aligns with virtues like empathy and compassion, both for the potential life of the fetus and the well-being of the existing family members.

In conclusion, the ethics of abortion can be analyzed through various philosophical perspectives, each offering unique insights into the moral considerations involved in such a complex and personal decision.