

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

a. absolute monarchy

b. constitutional monarchy

c. commercial, Industrial democracy

d. hunting and gathering community

7. The_____, are a group of philosophers that stressed overcoming feelings and desires and serving the demands of duty as revealed by reason.

a. Stoics

b. Sophists

c. Platonists

d. Hedonists

8. According to Elizabeth Anscombe, moral philosophy is misguided because it rests on the notion of law without a_____.

a. lawyer

b. lawgiver

c. theology

d. philosophy

9. According to_____moral language is not fact-stating language (i.e. it is not used to convey information or to make reports). Instead it is used as a means in influencing people's behaviour.

a. Emotivism

b. Virtue Ethics

c. Ethical Egoism

d. Simple subjectivism

10. Theories that emphasize right actions seem incomplete because they neglect the question of character_____remedies this problem by making character its central concern.

a. Kantianism

b. Virtue ethics

c. Ethics of care

d. Ethical egoism

11. _____ said women are not as rational as men, thus they are naturally ruled by men.

a. Hobbes

b. Socrates

c. Aristotle

d. Bentham

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

a. Ethical egoism

b. Moral relativism

c. Ethical subjectivism

d. Psychological egoism

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. Nel Noddings

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. While consequentialist moral reasoning locates morality in the consequences of an act, _____ moral reasoning locates morality in certain duties and rights.

a. relativist

b. empirical

c. absolutist

d. categorical

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. Kant rejects utilitarianism because it says pain and pleasure are our only sovereign masters. While Kant does not deny that humans, like animals, love pleasure and avoid pain, humans are much more than animals, they are also _____ and _____ beings.

a. logical, spurious

b. sensible, eponymous

c. rational, autonomous

d. emotional, heteronomous

SECTION B-DISCUSSION AND EXPOSITION

Instruction: Answer FOUR of the following questions.

1. Summarize Aristotle's Virtue Ethics. What does he mean when he says, "A virtuous person is kind, generous and balanced, seeking the middle way or mean between extreme positions." Illustrate your answer with at least three examples.

Ans:- Aristotle's Virtue Ethics is a moral philosophy that emphasizes the development of virtuous character as the key to ethical living. According to Aristotle, virtues are habitual dispositions to act in ways that lead to human flourishing. Central to his ethical theory is the concept of the "golden mean," which advocates finding a balanced middle ground between extremes in one's actions and emotions.

When Aristotle says, "A virtuous person is kind, generous, and balanced, seeking the middle way or mean between extreme positions," he is highlighting the importance of moderation and avoiding excess or deficiency in behavior. Here are three examples to illustrate this concept:

1. Courage (virtue)

Excess: Recklessness:- Acting without fear in dangerous situations.

Deficiency: Cowardice:- Avoiding necessary risks due to excessive fear.

Golden Mean: Courage:- Taking appropriate risks with a balanced assessment of danger.

2. Generosity (virtue)

Excess: Prodigality:- Excessive generosity to the point of wastefulness.

Deficiency: Stinginess:- Withholding resources excessively, even when it's reasonable to give.

Golden Mean: Generosity:- Giving in a balanced and thoughtful manner, considering the needs and circumstances.

3. Anger (virtue)

Excess: Wrath:- Uncontrollable and excessive anger leading to harm.

Deficiency: Lack of assertiveness:- Failing to express anger when it is appropriate.

Golden Mean: Righteous anger:- Expressing anger in a measured and justified manner, addressing the issue without causing unnecessary harm.

In each example, Aristotle argues that the virtuous path lies between the extremes, encouraging individuals to cultivate habits and behaviors that strike a harmonious balance. The golden mean is not a rigid midpoint but a dynamic equilibrium that considers the context and the particular circumstances of each situation.

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

Ans:- Ayn Rand, a Russian-American philosopher and novelist, is a prominent advocate of ethical egoism. Her argument for ethical egoism is outlined in her philosophy of Objectivism, which she developed in works like "The Fountainhead" and "Atlas Shrugged."

Here are key elements of her argument:-

1. Individualism:- Rand emphasizes the importance of individualism, asserting that each person is an end in themselves and has the right to pursue their own happiness. She argues that individuals have their own unique talents, abilities, and values, and they should be free to pursue their own goals without sacrificing themselves for others.

2. Rational Self-Interest:- Rand argues that ethical egoism is based on rational self-interest. Individuals, according to her, should make decisions that promote their long-term well-being and happiness. This does not mean reckless or short-term actions but rational choices that consider the consequences of one's actions on one's own life.

3. Morality of Reason:- Rand rejects altruism, the idea that individuals should live for the sake of others, and instead advocates a morality of reason. She contends that reason should be the guiding principle for human action and morality, and individuals should act in accordance with their own rational self-interest.

Critics of Ayn Rand's ethical egoism raise several objections:-

1. Lack of Empathy:- Critics argue that ethical egoism, as presented by Rand, lacks a moral foundation for empathy and altruistic behavior. It may lead to a society where individuals prioritize their own interests at the expense of others, potentially fostering a lack of compassion and cooperation.

2. Inequality and Exploitation:- Some critics assert that a society based solely on ethical egoism could result in significant inequality, as individuals pursue their own interests without regard for the well-being of others. This, they argue, might lead to exploitation and social injustice.

3. Extreme Individualism:- Rand's emphasis on individualism is seen by critics as overly individualistic, neglecting the importance of communal values and the interconnectedness of society. Critics argue that a balance between individual and collective interests is necessary for a healthy and functioning society.

4. Assumption of Rationality:- Critics contend that Rand's assumption that individuals will always act rationally in their long-term self-interest is overly optimistic. Human behavior is complex, and people may act irrationally or succumb to short-term desires that may not align with their long-term well-being.

In summary, Ayn Rand's argument for ethical egoism centers on individualism, rational self-interest, and a morality of reason. Critics challenge her philosophy on the grounds of potential lack of empathy, social inequality, extreme individualism, and the assumption of constant rational behavior. The debate between proponents and critics revolves around fundamental questions about the nature of morality and the balance between individual and collective interests in society.

3. Are we ever justified in breaking the law? If so, when? If no, why not? Argue your case from the perspective of social contract theory.

Ans:- Social contract theory, often associated with philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, posits that individuals enter into a social contract to form a society, surrendering certain freedoms in exchange for protection and order. Within this framework, there may be circumstances where individuals could be justified in breaking the law, but such justifications should be carefully considered.

1. Self-Defense and Personal Safety:- According to social contract theory, individuals give up some of their natural rights in exchange for protection from the state. If the state fails to provide this protection, or if an individual's life or safety is directly threatened, breaking the law in self-defense might be justified.

2. Unjust Laws and Civil Disobedience:- Social contract theory implies that individuals agree to follow just laws, and governments are obligated to create and enforce just laws. If a law is inherently unjust, such as those promoting discrimination or violating fundamental human rights, individuals may be justified in breaking it. This concept aligns with the idea of civil disobedience, where breaking the law is a form of protest to bring attention to its injustice.

3. Failure of the Social Contract:- If a government consistently fails to uphold its end of the social contract by not ensuring the well-being and protection of its citizens, individuals may argue that the contract is broken. In extreme cases, where the government becomes tyrannical or oppressive, some theorists, like John Locke, suggest that people may have the right to revolt and establish a new social contract.

4. Emergency Situations:- In cases of extreme emergencies where following the law would lead to significant harm or loss of life, individuals might argue that breaking the law is justified to prevent greater harm. This is based on the idea that the social contract includes an implicit understanding that individuals retain the right to protect themselves and others in exceptional circumstances.

However, it's important to note that social contract theory also emphasizes the importance of maintaining order and stability for the benefit of society. Therefore, any justification for breaking the law should be approached with caution and only exercised when the circumstances clearly align with the principles of justice and protection that underlie the social contract. In a well-ordered society, the social contract provides a framework for addressing grievances and seeking change through legal and peaceful means.

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 is a moral and ethical theory that originated in the 18th and 19th centuries, prominently associated with philosophers such as Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill. The theory is founded on the principle of maximizing overall happiness or pleasure and minimizing suffering as the ultimate goal of morality.

Here are key points summarizing classical utilitarianism:

- 1. Principle of Utility:-** The central tenet of classical utilitarianism is the Principle of Utility, which holds that actions are morally right to the extent that they promote the greatest happiness or pleasure for the greatest number of people.
- 2. Quantitative Hedonism:-** Bentham, one of the founders of utilitarianism, advocated for a quantitative approach to pleasure and pain. He suggested that pleasure and pain could be measured in terms of intensity, duration, certainty, proximity, and extent.
- 3. Higher and Lower Pleasures:-** Mill, building upon Bentham's ideas, introduced the concept of higher and lower pleasures. He argued that some pleasures are more valuable than others, with intellectual, moral, and aesthetic pleasures being considered higher than mere physical or sensual pleasures.
- 4. Consequentialism:-** Utilitarianism is a consequentialist theory, meaning that the morality of an action is determined by its outcomes or consequences. The focus is on the overall net happiness resulting from an action.

Now, regarding why classical utilitarianism is considered an example of radical thought, social reform, and changing the basis of morality:

- 1. Radical Thought:-** Utilitarianism challenged traditional moral theories rooted in religious or deontological principles. The radical aspect lies in its utilitarian calculus, which encourages a pragmatic and empirical approach to ethics based on the pursuit of happiness and the well-being of individuals.
- 2. Social Reform:-** Utilitarianism advocates for policies and actions that contribute to the greatest overall happiness. This has often led utilitarians to support social reforms such as improved education, healthcare, and social equality, as they are seen as means to enhance the general welfare.

3. Changing the Basis of Morality:- Classical utilitarianism represented a shift from morality based on absolute rules or divine command to a more consequentialist and human-centered approach. It introduced the idea that morality should be based on the observable consequences of actions and their impact on human well-being.

While classical utilitarianism has been influential, it is not without criticisms. Some argue that it oversimplifies moral decision-making, neglects individual rights, and faces challenges in measuring and comparing different pleasures and pains. Nevertheless, its radical departure from traditional moral theories has left a lasting impact on ethical discourse.

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

Ans:- Addressing inequality, injustice, and culturally unacceptable practices requires a multifaceted and collaborative approach. Here are some general strategies that can be employed:

1. Raise Awareness:- Educate people about the issues at hand, fostering a greater understanding of the root causes and consequences of inequality and injustice.

2. Promote Dialogue:- Encourage open and respectful conversations among individuals with different perspectives. This helps build empathy and understanding, fostering a sense of shared humanity.

3. Advocacy and Activism:- Support and engage in advocacy efforts that aim to bring about policy changes and legal reforms to address systemic issues contributing to inequality and injustice.

4. Legislation and Policy Reform:- Work towards creating and implementing laws and policies that promote equality, protect human rights, and address cultural practices that are harmful or unacceptable.

5. Community Engagement:- Involve communities in decision-making processes to ensure that solutions are culturally sensitive and address the specific needs of different groups.

6. Promote Diversity and Inclusion:- Encourage organizations and institutions to adopt inclusive policies and practices that embrace diversity, providing equal opportunities for all individuals.

7. Support Grassroots Initiatives:- Empower local initiatives and organizations that are working on the ground to address inequality and injustice. Grassroots efforts often have a deep understanding of local contexts.

8. Education and Empowerment:- Provide education and skills training to marginalized communities, empowering them to participate fully in society and improve their own circumstances.

9. Challenge Stereotypes and Biases:- Actively challenge stereotypes and biases that perpetuate inequality. Encourage media, education systems, and individuals to portray and treat people with fairness and respect.

10. Global Collaboration:- Work collaboratively on a global scale to address issues that transcend borders. Solidarity and cooperation can amplify the impact of efforts to combat inequality and injustice.

11. Hold Perpetrators Accountable:- Ensure accountability for those who perpetrate injustice or engage in harmful cultural practices through legal means, advocacy, and social pressure.

12. Promote Economic Equality:- Address economic disparities through policies that promote fair wages, social safety nets, and inclusive economic growth.

It's important to tailor these strategies to the specific cultural and societal contexts where the issues are prevalent. Sustainable change often requires a combination of top-down policies and bottom-up grassroots efforts, as well as a commitment from individuals, communities, and institutions to actively participate in the process of change.

SECTION C-CRITICAL ESSAY

Instruction: Answer TWO of the following questions.

1. 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:- Ethical perspectives on abortion vary, and philosophers from different ethical traditions may offer distinct arguments. Let's explore the Kantian, utilitarian, and virtue ethics perspectives on abortion in the context of Jane Doe's situation.

1. Kantian Perspective

Principle:- According to Immanuel Kant's deontological ethics, actions are evaluated based on the inherent nature of the action itself, rather than the consequences.

Argument Against Abortion:- Kantians might argue that aborting a fetus goes against the principle of treating individuals as ends in themselves. The fetus, according to this perspective, has intrinsic value as a potential rational being, and terminating its existence would be treating it merely as a means to an end (the convenience of the parents). Kantians would emphasize the moral duty to respect and protect the inherent dignity of all individuals, including unborn ones.

2. Utilitarian Perspective:

Principle:- Utilitarianism evaluates actions based on their consequences, seeking the greatest overall happiness or pleasure and minimizing suffering.

Argument For Abortion:- Utilitarians might argue that in Jane Doe's case, considering the potential stress and hardship that a new baby could bring to the family, as well as the impact on her husband's career change, it might be more ethical to choose abortion. From a utilitarian standpoint, the overall happiness and well-being of the family as a whole may be increased by avoiding the additional burdens associated with an unplanned pregnancy.

3. Virtue Ethics Perspective

Principle:- Virtue ethics focuses on the development of moral character and virtues such as compassion, honesty, and integrity.

Argument Depending on Virtues:- Virtue ethicists might consider virtues such as compassion and responsibility. In this case, they may argue that Jane and her husband, by considering the well-being of their existing family members and the potential challenges of bringing a new child into their lives at this time, are acting virtuously. The decision to have an abortion, if made responsibly and with compassion, could align with virtue ethics.

It's important to note that individuals may draw on various ethical perspectives to form their own opinions on abortion, and ethical theories themselves can be interpreted in different ways. Additionally, personal and cultural factors can influence one's ethical stance on the matter.

2. In the documentary "Choosing to Die" the narrator, Terry Pratchett interviewed several people who have chosen to die through assisted dying. This is a form of euthanasia (mercy killing) in which a person who wants to die engage an agency to do it for them. Discuss the ethics of euthanasia from the natural law, Kantian and utilitarian perspectives.

Ans:- Euthanasia, particularly assisted dying, is a complex and ethically charged issue, and different ethical perspectives provide varying views on its morality. Let's examine the ethics of euthanasia from the natural law, Kantian, and utilitarian perspectives:

1. Natural Law Perspective

Natural law ethics, rooted in the teachings of figures like Thomas Aquinas, argues that there are inherent moral principles derived from nature and reason. From a natural law perspective, euthanasia is often considered morally wrong, as it goes against the principle of the sanctity of life. Life is viewed as an intrinsic good, and intentionally ending it is seen as a violation of this fundamental principle.

The natural law perspective also emphasizes the importance of the human capacity for rationality and the pursuit of natural goods. Euthanasia may be seen as interfering with the natural course of life, disrupting the pursuit of goods such as knowledge, virtue, and community.

2. Kantian Perspective

Immanuel Kant's deontological ethics is centered on the notion of duty and the categorical imperative. From a Kantian perspective, euthanasia is often considered morally problematic, as it involves treating human life as a means to an end (in this case, relieving suffering), rather than an end in itself.

Kant argued that we should act in ways that can be universally applied without contradiction. Applying this to euthanasia, if everyone were to seek death as a means to end suffering, it would undermine the value of life itself. Therefore, euthanasia may be seen as incompatible with the categorical imperative.

3. Utilitarian Perspective

Utilitarian ethics, associated with figures like Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, evaluates actions based on their overall consequences and seeks to maximize happiness or pleasure and minimize suffering. From a utilitarian standpoint, euthanasia might be morally acceptable if it leads to the greatest overall happiness or minimizes overall suffering.

Proponents argue that in cases where individuals are experiencing unbearable pain and suffering, providing them with the option of assisted dying could contribute to a better overall state of happiness. However, critics argue that allowing euthanasia might have negative consequences, such as eroding the value placed on human life and creating potential for abuse.

In the case of "Choosing to Die," the ethical implications of assisted dying are evident, and the documentary raises important questions about autonomy, compassion, and the role of society in end-of-life decisions. Debates on euthanasia often involve a balance between individual autonomy and the broader ethical considerations surrounding the value of life. Different ethical perspectives provide distinct lenses through which to analyze and discuss these complex moral issues.

3. Scott Bennett is the engineer assigned to deal with vendors who supply needed parts to the Upscale Company. Larry Newman, sales representative from one of Upscale's regular vendors, plays in the same golf league as Scott. One evening, they played a round of golf together. Sometime during the round Scott mentions that he is really looking forward to vacationing in Florida next month. Larry says his uncle owns a condo in Florida that he rents out during the months he and his family are up north. Larry offers to see if the condo is available next month -- assuring Scott that the rental cost would be quite moderate. Larry tells Scott he can rent his uncle's condo for \$100 a week. "My uncle," Larry says, "gets nervous when he rents to total strangers. He likes to have reliable people stay in his condo; the condo is paid for, and my uncle isn't interested in making money on it -- he just wants a little help meeting basic operating expenses and the taxes." Scott accepts the offer and begins making plans for his vacation. Just before leaving, an Upscale vice president sends out a new policy statement that says, among other things: "Accepting incentives from vendors is strictly prohibited". What is the ethically right thing for Scott to do? Justify your answer based on at least one ethical school of thought.

Ans:- In this scenario, Scott Bennett faces an ethical dilemma after accepting an offer from Larry Newman, a vendor's sales representative, to rent a condo in Florida at a significantly discounted rate. The new policy statement from Upscale explicitly prohibits accepting incentives from vendors. To determine the ethically right course of action, we can analyze the situation using the consequentialist ethical school of thought.

Consequentialism evaluates the morality of an action based on its consequences. One well-known form of consequentialism is utilitarianism, which emphasizes the greatest overall happiness or well-being for the greatest number of people. In this case, Scott must consider the potential consequences of his decision on both himself and the stakeholders involved.

If Scott decides to proceed with the discounted condo rental, the potential consequences could include:-

1. Personal Benefit:- Scott would enjoy a discounted vacation, providing personal happiness and satisfaction.

2. Violation of Company Policy:- Scott would be violating Upscale's policy, potentially leading to disciplinary actions or damage to his professional reputation.

3. Impaired Vendor Relationships:- Accepting such incentives may compromise the professional relationship between Upscale and its vendors, leading to potential conflicts of interest.

Given these potential consequences, the ethically right thing for Scott to do, based on a consequentialist perspective, would be to decline the offer from Larry and find alternative accommodation for his vacation. By doing so, Scott would avoid violating the company policy, maintain integrity in his professional relationships, and prevent any negative repercussions that may arise from accepting the vendor's incentive.

In summary, the consequentialist approach, particularly utilitarianism, suggests that Scott should prioritize the overall well-being and happiness of all stakeholders involved, which includes upholding the company's policies and maintaining transparent and ethical business practices.