

Ethics & Social Responsibility

October 2019

SECTION A-MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (20 MARKS)

Answer all questions in this section in the OMR sheet provided.

1. "Moral virtue is a middle state determined by practical wisdom." This statement according to Aristotle refers to:

A. happiness is the key to life and to ethics.

B. moderation is the key to life and to ethics.

C. morality is the key to life and to liberation.

D. moderation is the Golden Rules for ethics.

2. History of Ethics in the West is divided into three main periods namely _____

A. Classical, Medieval and Modern

B. Antiquity, Middle Ages and Renaissance

C. Dark Ages, Renaissance and Postmodern

D. Before Christ, Anno Domini and Postmodern

3. _____ says: "Justice emerges when negotiating without social differentiations."

A. Kant

B. Rawls

C. Aristotle

D. Jesus of Nazareth

4. A theme of Ancient Greek ethics then is the role of the virtuous life in achieving

A. prejudice

B. stereotype

C. perception

D. eudaimonia

5. The _____ emphasized the quiet enjoyment of pleasures, especially _____, free of fear and anxiety.

A. Moralists, happiness

B. Platonists, physical pleasure

C. Hedonists, physical pleasure

D. Epicureans, mental pleasure

6. _____ is the theory that holds that morality is relative to the norms of one's culture.

A. reason

B. emotion

C. subjectivism

D. Ethical relativism

7. Who did one of the most famous objections to hedonism originate with?

A. Mill

B. Rachels

C. Bentham

D. W.D. Ross

8. Rachels claims that the story of the Greeks and the Callatians illustrates that:

A. different societies have different moral codes.

B. the idea of a universal moral truth is an illusion.

C. no moral code is absolutely better than any other.

D. the idea of a universal moral truth is based on God.

9. Who is widely regarded as the first hedonist in Western philosophy?

A. Plato

B. Aristotle

C. Epicurus

D. Socrates

10. Immanuel Kant defended the idea of _____ as a basic requirement of ethics. Kant believed virtue should be rewarded by _____, and it would be intolerable if it were not so.

A. good, pleasure

B. hedonism, God

C. God, happiness

D. justice, happiness

11. "Ethical principles involve an understanding of _____ and philosophy as well as debates in the history of ideas over _____, virtue, the good and so forth".

A. motive, biased

B. feelings, partial

C. theology, justice

D. subjectivism, egoistic

12. The belief that decisions about right and wrong are purely personal and subjective is known as

A. Ethics of care

B. Ethical egoism

C. Ethnocentrism

D. Moral Relativism

13. _____ posits that each person ought to pursue his or her own self-interest exclusively, while, _____ asserts that each person does in fact pursue his or her own self-interest exclusively.

A. Virtue ethics, ethics of care

B. Ethical subjectivism, utilitarianism

C. Social contract theory, ethical egoism

D. Ethical egoism, psychological egoism

14. _____ argued that pleasures come in different levels of quality, and that the best pleasures for human beings were those that come only through hard work - especially the work of the mind. _____ and artistic pleasures topped his list; physical pleasures were at the bottom..

A. Plato, Politician

B. Mill, Intellectual

C. Bentham, Intellectual

D. Epicurus, Philosopher

15. The _____ theory states that the right thing to do is to follow the rules that rational, self-interested people would agree to follow for their mutual benefit.

A. utilitarian

B. virtue ethics

C. ethics of care

D. social contract

16. Ethics is the study of the choices people make regarding _____ and _____.

A. right, wrong

B. benefits, burdens

C. awards, commitments

D. assistance, responsibilities

17. Which type of feminism proposes that men not only benefit from the exploitation of women, but that they are responsible for it as well?

A. Liberal

B. Radical

C. Socialist

D. Capitalist

18. Act utilitarians focus on the action which will yield the greatest good in any particular case while _____ utilitarians focus more closely on which general rule will yield the best outcome.

A. rule

B. moral

C. theosophical

D. philosophical

19. What are the two fundamental kinds of pleasure according to the Hedonist?

A. Physical pleasure and carnal pleasure.

B. Carnal pleasure and spiritual pleasure.

C. Physical pleasure and attitudinal pleasure.

D. Spiritual pleasure and attitudinal pleasure.

20. Corporate social responsibility is the commitment of a business to contribute to sustainable economic development, working with employees, their families, the local community and society at large to improve their _____.

A. cost of living

B. quality of life

C. social position

D. standard of living

Section B – DISCUSSION AND EXPOSITION (40 MARKS)

Answer all of the following questions.

1. What do we need ethics?

Ans:- Ethics plays a crucial role in various aspects of human life, providing a framework for individuals and societies to navigate moral dilemmas, make responsible decisions, and cultivate a harmonious coexistence.

Here are five reasons why ethics is essential:-

1. Guidance for Decision-Making:- Ethics provides a set of principles and values that guide individuals when making decisions. It helps people distinguish between right and wrong, promoting thoughtful consideration of the consequences of their actions. This guidance is particularly valuable in complex situations where choices may have ethical implications.

2. Promotion of Morality and Integrity:- Ethics encourages individuals to uphold moral standards and act with integrity. It fosters a sense of personal responsibility and accountability for one's actions. In both personal and professional settings, ethical behavior contributes to building trust and maintaining positive relationships with others.

3. Creation of Social Harmony:- Ethics forms the foundation for social norms and standards that contribute to the creation of a harmonious and just society. Shared ethical values help establish a common ground for interaction and cooperation, reducing conflict and fostering a sense of community.

4. Protection of Individuals and Society:- Ethical principles often serve as a safeguard against harm to individuals and society at large. By promoting fairness, justice, and respect for human rights, ethics helps prevent exploitation, discrimination, and the abuse of power. It sets boundaries for acceptable behavior, creating a safer and more secure environment.

5. Development of a Responsible Society:- An ethical society is one in which individuals recognize their responsibilities not only to themselves but also to others and the broader community. Ethical values such as compassion, empathy, and altruism contribute to the well-being of society by encouraging acts of kindness, cooperation, and mutual support.

In summary, ethics is essential for providing guidance in decision-making, promoting moral behavior, fostering social harmony, protecting individuals and society, and contributing to the development of a responsible and compassionate community. It serves as a moral compass that helps individuals navigate the complexities of life while promoting the well-being of both individuals and the collective.

2. How does the Golden rule relate to ethics?

Ans:- The Golden Rule is a fundamental principle found in many ethical and moral traditions, and it essentially encourages individuals to treat others as they would like to be treated themselves. While the wording may vary across cultures and religions, the underlying concept remains consistent. This principle serves as a guide for ethical behavior and interpersonal relationships.

In ethical terms, the Golden Rule is often associated with the concept of reciprocity. It suggests that individuals should consider the impact of their actions on others and strive to act in a way that promotes fairness, empathy, and respect. By treating others with kindness and consideration, individuals contribute to the creation of a more just and harmonious society.

The Golden Rule can be found in various religious and philosophical traditions. For example:

1. Christianity:- In the Bible, specifically in the Gospel of Matthew 7:12, Jesus states, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

2. Islam:- In Islam, there is a saying of the Prophet Muhammad known as the Hadith of Gabriel, which includes the statement, "None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself."

3. Judaism:- The concept is reflected in the teachings of Judaism, where the principle of love for one's neighbor is central. The idea is expressed in various forms throughout Jewish scriptures.

4. Confucianism:- Confucius, a Chinese philosopher, articulated a version of the Golden Rule in a negative form, stating, "What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others."

5. Buddhism:- The Buddha emphasized compassion and the avoidance of harm to others, aligning with the principles of the Golden Rule.

In a broader ethical context, the Golden Rule serves as a foundation for moral reasoning, encouraging individuals to consider the perspectives and feelings of others. It promotes empathy and helps guide ethical decision-making by encouraging people to think about the consequences of their actions on others. Ultimately, the Golden Rule is a universal principle that transcends specific cultural or religious boundaries and is recognized as a key ethical guideline in many different societies.

3. is it justifiable to perform an evil act in order to achieve good consequences?

Ans:- The ethical question of whether it is justifiable to perform an evil act to achieve good consequences is a topic of moral philosophy. This scenario is often referred to as the "ends justify the means" dilemma.

1. Utilitarianism

Greatest Overall Good:- Utilitarianism, as advocated by philosophers like Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, asserts that the morality of an action is determined by its overall consequences. If an evil act produces greater overall happiness or good, a utilitarian would argue that it is justifiable. The focus is on maximizing pleasure or well-being for the greatest number of people.

Critiques:- Critics argue that utilitarianism may lead to morally questionable conclusions, as it seemingly justifies actions that violate individual rights or fundamental moral principles for the sake of aggregate happiness. The challenge lies in accurately predicting and measuring the consequences of actions.

2. Deontological Ethics

Inherent Morality of Actions:- Deontology, associated with philosophers like Immanuel Kant, posits that certain actions are inherently right or wrong, regardless of their consequences. From this perspective, committing an evil act is intrinsically unjustifiable, as it goes against moral principles or duties.

Universalizability:- Kant's categorical imperative suggests that individuals should act according to principles that could be universally applied without contradiction. Committing evil acts for good consequences may result in contradictions when trying to universalize such actions.

3. Virtue Ethics

Cultivation of Virtues:- Virtue ethics, as advocated by Aristotle, emphasizes the development of virtuous character traits. Acting in accordance with virtues such as honesty, integrity, and courage is seen as central to ethical behavior. Committing evil acts may be viewed as incompatible with the cultivation of virtuous character.

Practical Wisdom:- Virtue ethicists also emphasize the role of practical wisdom in ethical decision-making. This involves considering the context, understanding the particulars of a situation, and making morally sound judgments.

4. Consequentialist Concerns

Unintended Consequences:- Critics of the "ends justify the means" approach argue that predicting the consequences of actions is complex, and unintended negative outcomes may result from seemingly well-intentioned acts.

Slippery Slope:- There's also the concern that allowing certain evil acts for perceived good consequences sets a dangerous precedent, potentially leading to a slippery slope where the threshold for justifiable evil becomes unclear.

In ethical discussions, the tension between these perspectives often leads to a nuanced exploration of specific cases. Real-world scenarios may involve complex trade-offs, and the evaluation of actions may depend on factors such as the severity of the evil act, the likelihood of achieving the intended good consequences, and the availability of alternative, less morally compromising means to achieve those ends. Ethical dilemmas like these challenge individuals to grapple with the complexities of morality and the consequences of their actions.

4. Are we justified in breaking the law? If so, when?

Ans:- The question of whether one is justified in breaking the law is complex and depends on various factors, including ethical, moral, and legal considerations. Generally, societies establish laws to maintain order, protect individuals' rights, and promote the common good. Adhering to the law is essential for social stability and the functioning of a just and orderly society.

However, there are situations where individuals may feel compelled to break the law based on their own moral or ethical principles. Some argue that civil disobedience can be justified in the face of unjust laws or policies. Historically, figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. practiced civil disobedience to challenge discriminatory laws and promote social justice.

There are also legal concepts like "justification" and "self-defense" that may apply in certain situations. For example, individuals may be justified in breaking the law if they are acting to protect themselves or others from imminent harm and have no other reasonable alternative.

It's important to note that justifiably breaking the law is a complex and context-dependent matter. It often involves a careful consideration of the specific circumstances, the nature of the law being broken, and the potential consequences of the action. In democratic societies, there are typically legal and peaceful avenues available for individuals to challenge or change laws they consider unjust.

Ultimately, whether one is justified in breaking the law is a subjective and debated topic. In most cases, it is advisable to seek legal advice and explore non-violent, legal means of addressing grievances or advocating for change.

SECTION C-CRITICAL ESSAY (40 MARKS)

Instructions: Answer TWO (2) ONLY of the following questions.

1. Medical research has proven that second-hand smoke that is inhaled by non smokers in the company of smokers causes lung disease, including cancer. What are the moral implications of this finding for parents? What are they for businesspeople such as restaurant owners?

Ans:- The medical research indicating that second-hand smoke can cause lung disease, including cancer, has significant moral implications for both parents and businesspeople, especially restaurant owners.

Moral Implications for Parents

- 1. Responsibility for Children's Health:-** Parents have a moral responsibility to protect the health and well-being of their children. If they are aware of the dangers of second-hand smoke, they may be morally obligated to take steps to minimize their children's exposure.
- 2. Educational Responsibility:-** Knowing the risks associated with second-hand smoke, parents may be morally obligated to educate their children about the dangers of smoking and the importance of avoiding environments where smoking is prevalent.
- 3. Social Responsibility:-** Parents may feel a moral duty to advocate for smoke-free public spaces, supporting policies that protect not only their children but also the broader community from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

Moral Implications for Businesspeople, Especially Restaurant Owners

- 1. Customer and Employee Health:-** Restaurant owners have a moral responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for both customers and employees. Allowing smoking in the establishment may conflict with this duty, considering the proven health risks associated with second-hand smoke.
- 2. Ethics of Profit vs. Health:-** Businesspeople must navigate the ethical dilemma of prioritizing profits versus the health and well-being of their customers and staff. Choosing to allow smoking may be seen as prioritizing financial interests over public health.

3. Legal and Social Expectations:- There is a growing societal expectation for businesses to promote health and safety. Adhering to or surpassing legal regulations regarding smoking in public places aligns with these expectations and may be viewed as a moral obligation.

4. Community Impact:- Restaurant owners may consider the broader impact of their decisions on the community. Creating a smoke-free environment can contribute to a healthier community and may be seen as a positive moral choice.

Balancing Individual Freedom and Public Health

Both parents and businesspeople must navigate the balance between individual freedoms and public health. While individuals have the right to make choices about their personal habits, there is a moral obligation to consider the potential harm those choices may inflict on others, especially in public spaces.

In conclusion, the moral implications of the health risks associated with second-hand smoke involve a complex interplay between individual responsibility, community well-being, and ethical considerations related to business practices. Balancing these factors requires careful thought and consideration of the broader impact on both individuals and society.

2. "The practice of plagiarism on homework and cheating on examinations is probably as old as education itself. Few would deny that it is an unethical practice in most cases. But what of the dilemma of students who do not cheat on their work but know other students who do? Discuss the moral considerations they should make in deciding whether to inform the teacher. Then decide when they should and when they should not do so."

Ans:- The moral considerations for students who are aware of their peers engaging in plagiarism or cheating involve a complex interplay of values, personal integrity, and the broader implications for the educational community. Here are some points to consider when deciding whether to inform the teacher:

When Students Should Inform the Teacher

1. Commitment to Integrity:- If a student strongly values academic integrity and believes in the importance of a fair and honest educational environment, they may feel compelled to report instances of cheating or plagiarism.

2. Shared Responsibility:- Education is a collective effort, and maintaining its integrity is a shared responsibility. Students who witness dishonesty may feel an obligation to uphold the standards of academic honesty by reporting the misconduct.

3. Fairness to Hardworking Peers:- Reporting cheating can be seen as a way to ensure that hardworking and honest students are not unfairly disadvantaged by those who choose to cheat. It promotes an environment where everyone is judged on their genuine efforts and abilities.

4. Long-Term Consequences:- If cheating continues unchecked, it could undermine the credibility of the educational institution. Reporting dishonesty might contribute to preserving the value of academic qualifications and the reputation of the institution.

When Students Might Choose Not to Inform the Teacher

1. Personal Relationships:- If the student has a close personal relationship with the peer involved, they might grapple with loyalty conflicts. In such cases, students may hesitate to report the cheating to avoid damaging the relationship.

2. Assessment of Severity:- Some students might consider the severity of the cheating incident. In cases where the academic misconduct is minor or does not have a significant impact on others, individuals might be more inclined to handle the matter privately, perhaps by discussing it with the peer involved.

3. Potential Retaliation:- Fear of retaliation or negative consequences may deter students from reporting cheating. If there is a concern that reporting the incident could lead to personal harm or conflicts, students may choose to remain silent.

4. Educational Approach:- Students might opt for an educational approach, such as talking to the peer about the importance of academic honesty and encouraging them to rectify their behavior. Reporting could be considered a last resort after other interventions have failed.

In conclusion, the decision to inform the teacher about cheating involves a careful balance between one's commitment to integrity, the impact on relationships, the severity of the misconduct, and the potential consequences. Students should weigh these factors thoughtfully, considering the long-term implications for themselves and the academic community. Ultimately, the goal is to foster a culture of honesty, fairness, and shared responsibility within the educational environment.

3. Drones are unmanned planes that can do surveillance work and release bombs on specified targets in combat zones. President Obama has already used them in this way. Typically, the nation over which they will be released gives approval and then the drones are flown over the country and used to kill terrorists or other combatants. This use of drones clearly kept U.S. troops from combat, so it was less costly in human life. On the other hand, it had the potential to kill not only the targeted terrorists but innocent people in the area. In some cases, the innocents were reportedly known in advance to be in the attack zone. Supporters of using drones argue that modern warfare involves terrorists who do not dress in recognizable uniforms and deliberately surround themselves with civilians. Also, that the number of civilians killed by drones is far less than that by conventional bombs and ground attacks. Opponents argue that intelligence sometimes proves untrustworthy, no combatants are in the area and therefore only noncombatants are killed. Decide whether you support the use of drones described here and explain your thinking. Support your argument using ethics theories.

Ans:- The ethical considerations surrounding the use of drones for surveillance and targeted attacks involve a complex interplay of various ethical theories. Let's examine the situation through the lenses of consequentialism, deontology, and just war theory.

1. Consequentialism

Support for Drones:- From a consequentialist perspective, one might argue in favor of drone use, emphasizing the potential to save U.S. troops from direct combat and the overall reduction in the number of military casualties. The targeted elimination of terrorists could be seen as a means to prevent future harm to innocent civilians.

Opposition to Drones:- On the other hand, opponents may argue that the potential harm to innocent civilians caused by drone strikes outweighs the benefits. The unintended consequences, such as civilian casualties and the creation of anti-U.S. sentiments, could contribute to long-term negative outcomes.

2. Deontology

Support for Drones:- Deontological ethics, which focuses on adherence to moral rules or duties, may support the use of drones if it is perceived as a means of preventing harm and protecting national security. If the targeted individuals pose a genuine

threat, proponents may argue that it is a duty to eliminate that threat through whatever means are available.

Opposition to Drones:- Deontological ethics may be invoked by opponents who argue that the use of drones violates principles such as the right to life or the prohibition against killing innocent civilians. The method of targeting, regardless of the intent, may be seen as inherently morally wrong.

3. Just War Theory

Support for Drones:- Proponents may argue that drone strikes can be justified under the principles of just war theory, especially if they are employed in self-defense, with a just cause, and with proportional force. The ability to target specific individuals might be considered a more discriminate and proportionate method of warfare.

Opposition to Drones:- Critics may assert that the use of drones can violate the principles of just war theory, particularly in terms of proportionality and discrimination. The potential for civilian casualties and the lack of a clear battlefield might be seen as undermining the justness of the military action.

In summary, whether one supports or opposes the use of drones depends on the ethical framework applied. Supporters may emphasize the potential benefits in terms of military effectiveness and reduced troop casualties, while opponents may stress the ethical concerns related to civilian casualties and the potential for abuse of this technology. The debate underscores the importance of ethical considerations in the development and use of military technologies.