

**BIOETHICS IN CANADA
A PHILOSOPHICAL INTRODUCTION
2ND ED**

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TEST BANK

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Chapter 1: Ethical Theory

Multiple Choice

1. According to the introduction, humans inhabit a world constructed out of
 - a) concrete material
 - b) social institutions
 - c) **ideas**
 - d) physical objects

2. Ideas
 - a) structure what we do
 - b) structure how we live
 - c) structure what we believe
 - d) structure our reality
 - e) **a, b, and c**
 - f) all of the above

3. Philosophy is a rational activity that
 - a) **clarifies concepts**
 - b) determines the truth
 - c) justifies action
 - d) exposes lies

4. According to Mike W. Martin, ethical theories aspire to present moral ideas and issues
 - a) in black and white terms
 - b) clearly
 - c) consistently
 - d) in comprehensive frameworks
 - e) **b, c, and d**
 - f) all of the above

5. The philosopher's laboratory is
 - a) society
 - b) **the mind**
 - c) social institutions
 - d) all of the above

6. The two approaches to morality that seek to avoid making judgments about the actions and choices of others are
 - a) subjectivism and personalism
 - b) ethical relativism and existentialism
 - c) **subjectivism and ethical relativism**
 - d) utilitarianism and subjectivism

7. Ethical subjectivists assert that
 - a) judgment is a matter of taste
 - b) each individual creates their reality
 - c) we deserve what we get
 - d) a, b, and c
 - e) **a and b**
 - f) all of the above

8. Ethical relativism and subjectivism are inadequate approaches to morality because
 - a) they open up the moral conversation to too many options
 - b) they fail to take into account the multiple varying perspectives of individuals
 - c) **they can be used to justify the morally unjustifiable**
 - d) none of the above

9. Which are considered the “Big Three” of ethical theories?
 - a) feminist ethics, Kantianism, and utilitarianism
 - b) **virtue ethics, Kantianism, and utilitarianism**
 - c) virtue ethics, feminist ethics, and utilitarianism
 - d) virtue ethics, Kantianism, and feminist ethics

10. Utilitarianism directs us to ask
 - a) What kind of person should I be?
 - b) **What happens if I perform this action?**
 - c) What is the least harm that I can do?
 - d) none of the above

11. The following can be said about utilitarianism
 - a) it is egalitarian
 - b) it makes no reference to God as a source of moral command
 - c) it claims to be scientific
 - d) **all of the above**
 - e) none of the above

12. The idea that “Hockey is as good as opera” refers to the idea that in utilitarianism
- a) pleasure is of the highest importance
 - b) the pleasures of an important person are no less important than the pleasures of the least important person
 - c) no distinction is made between sources of pleasure
 - d) a and b
 - e) **b and c**
 - f) none of the above
13. “The Greatest Happiness Principle” can be attributed to
- a) Jeremy Bentham
 - b) **John Stuart Mill**
 - c) Aristotle
 - d) Immanuel Kant
14. The greatest strength of Kantianism is that it
- a) emphasizes the subjectivity of truth
 - b) warns us against using people as a means to an end
 - c) successfully reconciles pain with pleasure
 - d) **encompasses justice and dignity**
15. Which statement below is an example of Kant’s “categorical imperative”?
- a) **Keep promises.**
 - b) If you want to have a comfortable retirement, you should start saving money early.
 - c) Drink milk.
 - d) a and c
 - e) all of the above
16. Kant’s theory, by virtue of its formulation, excludes
- a) slaves
 - b) women
 - c) **animals**
 - d) all of the above
17. Virtue ethics takes what as its primary focus?
- a) **character**
 - b) relationships
 - c) power
 - d) emotion
 - e) all of the above

18. Virtue ethics draws on the philosophy of
- a) Socrates
 - b) Plato
 - c) **Aristotle**
 - d) Immanuel Kant
19. The one thing that Aristotle believes is ultimately desired for itself and not as a means to anything else is
- a) pleasure
 - b) power
 - c) **happiness**
 - d) amusement
20. An ethics of care has the following features
- a) it values emotions and promotes a human relation between self and other
 - b) it values emotions and focuses on meeting the needs of those we are responsible for
 - c) it values emotions and attempts to advocate for those without power
 - d) all of the above
 - e) **a and b**
 - f) b and c

True or False

1. The philosopher is like the scientist, in that he or she constructs theories, tests hypotheses, and looks at the evidence that can be given in support of any particular position being advanced. **(T)**
2. The role of ethical theory is to provide guidelines for decision making. **(T)**
3. An ethical dilemma occurs whenever we must make a decision and none of the possible courses of action open to us is entirely satisfactory because each violates a value we think important. **(T)**
4. Modern ethical relativism has its roots in the discoveries of sociologists. **(F)**
5. We *can* engage in the task of thinking and talking about ethics if we believe that ethical relativism or subjectivism is correct. **(F)**
6. Kantianism requires us to ask, “Is this action right or wrong, morally speaking, regardless of the consequences?” **(T)**
7. For Kant, the consequences of our actions are what count. **(F)**
8. The statement “If you want to have a comfortable retirement, you should start saving your money early” is an example of a categorical imperative. **(F)**

9. Feminists ask whether women are treated as full moral agents in traditional ethical theory. (T)
10. The origins of the ethics of care comes from Lawrence Kohlberg's challenge of Carol Gilligan's work (F)

Short Answer

1. What is an ethical theory? (3)
2. What are some of the issues considered by bioethicists? (3)
3. Define "ethical relativism" and give one example. (4)
4. Define "ethical subjectivism" and give one example. (4)
5. Why is it important to study ethical theories? (6)
6. Why are ethical relativism and subjectivism inadequate approaches to morality? (5)
7. Why is utilitarianism an important moral theory? (13–14)
8. What does Kant mean by "good will"? (15–16)
9. Give an example of one categorical imperative and one hypothetical imperative, neither of which come from the book *Bioethics in Canada*. (17)
10. Define "virtue ethics." Why is this approach to ethics important? (23–24)
11. What is meant by "the ethic of care"? How is this different from "the ethic of justice"? (31–32)

Discussion

1. What is ethics? What is its subject matter? Why is ethics needed? (3)
2. What is meant by "the challenge of relativism"? (4, 5)
3. Why are ethical relativism and subjectivism inadequate approaches to morality? What do you feel is a stronger approach to morality? (5)
4. What is the ethical theory that you most agree with? Explain why. (6–29)

5. Compare and contrast Jeremy Bentham's and John Stuart Mill's approaches to utilitarianism. Which do you most agree with? Why? **(6–14)**
6. What are some of the problems with utilitarianism as a moral theory? **(12–13)**
7. The text *Bioethics in Canada* claims that if one wanted to come up with a theory that was the opposite of utilitarianism in almost every way, then Immanuel Kant's theory is hard to beat. What is meant by this claim? **(14–15)**
8. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Immanuel Kant's ethical theory? **(20)**
9. What do the authors of *Bioethics in Canada* mean when they say that we need to connect the insights of virtue theory to utilitarian and Kantian recommendations? Can you give an example of what this might look like in practice? **(30)**
10. Compare and contrast the "ethics of care" approach with "feminist ethics." **(30–35)**