Ahmedabad University

School of Arts and Sciences

ETH 201 Ethics

All Programmes
Mid Term Examination 2022 (Monsoon Semester)

Total Marks = 30 **Time – 2 hours**

Enrolment Number:.....
Date: 09-24-2022
No. of printed pages: 6

This exam consists of 30 multiple choice questions. Each correct answer is worth 1 mark, for a total of 30 points. The exam is worth 30% of your final course grade.

Please select the *best* answer to each question.

1. Utilitarianism determines whether an action is morally right or wrong based on:
a) The person's character.
b) The person's intentions.
c) The consequences of the action.
d) All of the above.

2. Kant's *Formula of the End in Itself* requires you to:
a) Act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never simply as a means but always at the same time as an end.
b) Act only on that maxim which you could will to be a universal law for all human beings.
c) Act in such a way that you always promote the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.
d) Act in such a way that you always treat other human beings as you would like to be treated.

3. Peter Singer's 'drowning child' thought experiment is supposed to illustrate:
a) That we have a duty to maximize overall happiness every time we act.
b) That there is no such thing as a right to private property.
c) That laws concerning euthanasia should be made more permissive.
d) That most relatively affluent people are falling fall short of meeting their moral obligations to the worst-off people in the world.

4. Money is a standard example of something that is:
a) Intrinsically good.
b) Instrumentally good.

c) Both a and b.
d) Neither a nor b.

5. The view that each individual person has the absolute authority to determine what is morally right or wrong for themselves is known as:
a) Cultural Relativism
b) Moral Universalism
c) The Desire-fulfillment theory
d) Simple Subjectivism

6. Plato's 'Ring of Gyges' thought experiment is concerned with the answer to which fundamental ethical question?
a) What is the supreme principle of morality?
b) Why is death bad?
c) Why be moral?
d) When is killing wrong?

7. Guy Fletcher's *Hillary* case is presented as a counterexample to which theory of well-being?
a) Hedonism
b) The Objective-List Theory
c) Welfarism
d) The Desire-Fulfillment Theory

8. Pick the statement that is NOT true. According to deontological moral theories:
a) The consequences of an action are not the only morally relevant consideration.
b) The happiness of others is never a morally relevant consideration.
c) The moral status of an action is determined (at least in part) by the nature of the action itself.
d) Morality is primarily about determining what our duty is in any given situation.

9. Which of the following is an example of treating someone *merely as a means*?
a) I give the shopkeeper 20 rupees and in exchange they give me a bottle of Thums Up.
b) I refrain from donating to a reliable famine relief agency, even though I know that doing so would produce more happiness than any other action.
c) I borrow money from a friend and promise to pay them back, even though I know I will not be able to keep my promise.
d) I react with anger to a work colleague's mistake when I should have shown more patience.

10. According to Akeel Bilgrami, which of the following views did Mahatma Gandhi NOT hold?
a) There are no universal moral truths, and even if there were we could not know them.
b) Moral criticism of others' beliefs/ways of life itself involves a kind of violence.
c) Moral truths can only be *lived* and *held up to others as an example*, rather than forced upon them as the conclusion of a rational argument.

d) Moral truths apply to all human beings.

11. Virtue ethicists argue that:
a) Ethics is fundamentally about the *kind of person* we are and should aspire to be.
b) The cultivation and exercise of excellent character traits such as generosity, honesty, and courage is central to living a morally good life.
c) Morality cannot be reduced to a single supreme principle.
d) All of the above.

12. Christine Korsgaard argues that how we treat non-human animals is morally important because:
a) They possess a rational nature.
b) Treating other animals poorly usually leads to treating human beings poorly.
c) It is important that we respect each other's property, including pets and livestock.
d) They are the kinds of beings to whom things can be important.

13. According to a utilitarian approach, why it is usually wrong to kill an innocent human being?
a) Death frustrates a person's life-plan and deprives them of all the future happiness they could otherwise look forward to.
b) Killing violates the sanctity of human life.
c) Killing violates the categorical imperative.
d) None of the above

14. Rosalind Hursthouse argues that choosing to have an abortion is:
a) Every individual's right.
b) Always morally wrong.
c) Sometimes morally wrong and sometimes morally right, depending on the specific character traits that the decision displays.
d) A violation of the fetus's right to life.

15. The principle of utility states that:
a) The morally right action is always that one which, of the options open to you, best promotes your own happiness or well-being.
b) The morally right action is always that one which, of the actions open to you, best promotes overall happiness or well-being.
c) The morally right action is always that one which, in the circumstances, a fully virtuous agent would perform.
d) When determining the morally right thing to do, the happiness of some people counts for more than the happiness of others.

16. According to Mark Van Roojen, the *fairness objection* to affirmative action policies for historically disadvantaged groups such as Black Americans fails because:
a) Those who currently benefit from past discrimination are themselves morally responsible for the harmful effects of this discrimination.
b) Affirmative action policies are the best way to maximize happiness.

c) Affirmative action policies help to decrease economic inequality.
d) There is no morally relevant distinction between harming someone and failing to benefit them.

17. The Subhash example (discussed in class) calls into question which premise of the Epicurean argument?
a) P's being dead is not bad for P.
b) P can experience a state of affairs at some time only if it begins before P's death.
c) A state of affairs is bad for person P only if P can experience it at some time.
d) P's being dead is not a state of affairs that P can experience at some time

18. A distinguishing feature of the ethics of care, as developed by Virginia Held, is:
a) A focus on global justice and human rights.
b) A focus on the person as partly constituted by their (chosen and unchosen) relationships with others.
c) A focus on maximizing the total number of caring relationships in the world/a particular society.
d) A focus on overcoming self-interest in favor of impartial morality.

19. Julia Annas argues that happiness is:
a) Pleasure and the absence of pain.
b) Getting what you want.
c) A global feature of a successful life.
d) The mental state of feeling satisfied with your life.

20. On which of the following views is the idea of a *moral exemplar* important?
a) Virtue Ethics.
b) Gandhian ethics.
c) Both a and b.
d) Neither a nor b.

21. Which of the following claims about non-human animals does Christine Korsgaard *not* accept?
a) Unlike humans, they do not possess an 'evaluative self-conception'.
b) While *suffering* is bad for them, *being killed* is not.
c) They are ends in themselves.
d) They are the kinds of beings to whom things can be important.

22. The two kinds of duties that can be derived from Kant's *Formula of the End in Itself* are:
a) Duties of justice and duties of beneficence.
b) Moral duties and self-regarding duties.
c) The categorical imperative and the Formula of Universal Law.
d) This is a trick question: there is only one kind of duty for a Kantian.

23. Peter Singer's argument for the moral necessity of charitable giving relies on which of the following principles?
a) The Peter principle.
b) When, without sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, I can prevent a great evil from befalling another person, I have a moral obligation to do so.
c) The categorical imperative.
d) The principle of equal consideration of interests.

24. Which of the following is *not* a key ingredient of the moral theory known as utilitarianism?
a) Psychological Egoism.
b) Impartiality.
c) Welfarism.
d) Consequentialism.

25. According to Virginia Held, viewing international relations through the lens of the ethics of care will:
a) Require us to dispense with the legalistic ideas of 'justice' and 'human rights'.
b) Require us to embrace cultural relativism.
c) Require us to call into question the militaristic 'tough guy' ideal of the modern state and the single-minded focus on economic growth as the measure of development.
d) All of the above.

26. Ethical egoism is the view that:
a) Each person is motivated entirely by their own self-interest.
b) Immoral activity is always bad for the person engaged in it.
c) The morally right thing for a person to do is whatever best promotes their own self-interest.
d) Each person has the absolute authority to determine what is morally right or wrong for themselves.

27. What is the core philosophical commitment which distinguishes moral universalism from cultural relativism?
a) We should strive to eliminate all moral disagreement.
b) At least some claim(s) about what is morally right and wrong have applied in every culture at every time.
c) Killing an innocent person is always morally wrong.
d) Some cultures are just better than others.

28. Virtue ethics and the ethics of care agree that:
a) Morality cannot be a reduced to a single supreme principle.
b) We should strive to cultivate certain dispositions such as generosity and compassion.
c) Relationships, such as those between parents and children, are morally significant.
d) All of the above.

29. Which of the following is NOT an ethical question:
a) Would I be happier building a career as an accountant or as an engineer?
b) Is it morally wrong to eat meat?
c) Should I exercise my legal right to have an abortion, or would having the baby be a better decision in my current circumstances?
d) None of the above

30. Kantian ethics and utilitarianism agree that:
a) Morality can be reduced to a single supreme principle.
b) Killing a human being is always morally worse than killing a non-human animal.
c) Happiness has intrinsic value.
d) Human beings have intrinsic value.