

Foundations of Ethical Theory

Ethics · Answer Key · 22 Questions

1. Which ethical theory emphasizes the importance of duty or obligation as the basis for moral action?

- A) Utilitarianism
- B) Virtue Ethics
- C) Deontology**
- D) Ethical Egoism

2. The ethical concept of 'the greatest good for the greatest number' is central to which major ethical framework?

- A) Kantianism
- B) Stoicism
- C) Hedonism
- D) Utilitarianism**

3. Which ancient Greek philosopher is often credited with the development of Virtue Ethics, focusing on character traits?

- A) Socrates
- B) Plato
- C) Aristotle**
- D) Epicurus

4. Immanuel Kant's ethical system is primarily based on the concept of:

- A) Consequences of actions
- B) Divine command
- C) Categorical Imperative**
- D) Social contract

5. What term describes an ethical theory that judges the morality of an action solely by its outcome or consequences?

- A) Deontological ethics
- B) Virtue ethics
- C) Consequentialism**
- D) Absolutism

6. The ethical principle of 'do no harm' is a foundational concept in which field?

- A) Environmental ethics
- B) Bioethics**
- C) Business ethics
- D) Animal ethics

7. Which ethical theory suggests that morality is determined by societal standards or conventions?

- A) Ethical Relativism**
- B) Ethical Naturalism
- C) Ethical Intuitionism
- D) Ethical Absolutism

8. The 'veil of ignorance' is a thought experiment proposed by which philosopher to develop principles of justice?

- A) Jeremy Bentham
- B) John Rawls**
- C) Robert Nozick
- D) Peter Singer

9. Which of the following is NOT one of the four main principles of biomedical ethics as outlined by Beauchamp and Childress?

- A) Autonomy
- B) Beneficence
- C) Justice
- D) Dignity**

10. The philosophical concept of 'eudaimonia,' often translated as flourishing or living well, is central to the ethics of:

- A) John Stuart Mill
- B) Friedrich Nietzsche
- C) Aristotle**
- D) Jean-Paul Sartre

11. What is the name of the ethical system that advocates for the pursuit of self-interest as the foundation of morality?

- A) Altruism
- B) Ethical Egoism**
- C) Utilitarianism
- D) Communitarianism

12. The ethical consideration of the environment and its non-human inhabitants falls under the domain of:

- A) Social ethics
- B) Political ethics
- C) Environmental ethics**
- D) Personal ethics

13. Which ethical theory argues that moral judgments are expressions of personal approval or disapproval?

- A) Emotivism**
- B) Prescriptivism
- C) Intuitionism
- D) Deontology

14. The philosophical idea that moral truths are objective and independent of human beliefs is known as:

- A) Moral Skepticism
- B) Moral Nihilism
- C) Moral Realism**
- D) Moral Subjectivism

15. The concept of 'the Golden Rule' ('Do unto others as you would have them do unto you') is a prominent ethical principle found in many cultures and religions, often associated with:

- A) Nihilism
- B) Absolutism
- C) Reciprocity**
- D) Hedonism

16. Which ethical perspective focuses on the development of good habits and character traits rather than rules or consequences?

- A) Virtue Ethics**
- B) Deontology
- C) Utilitarianism
- D) Existentialism

17. The ethical debate surrounding the moral status of artificial intelligence relates to which area of ethics?

- A) Environmental ethics
- B) Animal ethics
- C) Metaethics
- D) AI ethics (or Philosophy of Technology)**

18. The idea that moral obligations are derived from God's commands is characteristic of:

- A) Natural Law Theory
- B) Divine Command Theory**
- C) Virtue Ethics
- D) Social Contract Theory

19. The ethical theory that judges the morality of an action based on whether it conforms to universal moral rules is known as:

- A) Consequentialism
- B) Deontology**
- C) Virtue Ethics
- D) Ethical Relativism

20. Which ethical framework emphasizes the importance of social agreements and consent as the basis for political and moral order?

- A) Utilitarianism
- B) Social Contract Theory**
- C) Virtue Ethics
- D) Ethical Egoism

21. The ethical principle that emphasizes fairness and equitable distribution of benefits and burdens is:

- A) Autonomy
- B) Non-maleficence
- C) Beneficence
- D) Justice**

22. The ethical consideration of the moral standing and treatment of non-human animals is known as:

- A) Environmental ethics
- B) Bioethics
- C) Animal ethics**
- D) Medical ethics