

Ethics and Society

Test 2 Study Guide

1. What is ethical theory?
2. According to Cahn and Forcehime (2018), ethical theory has two aims: the first is enumerative, the second is explanatory. Explain each of these aims.
3. What is applied ethics?
4. CRITICAL THINKING–In defending (voluntary) active euthanasia, Rachels (1975) argues against what he calls “the conventional doctrine.” State the conventional doctrine. What is Rachels’ argument against this doctrine? In your answer, make sure to give/elaborate on the example of Smith and Jones.
5. What is Rachels’ Argument from Transitivity?
6. Both Husak (2003) and Sher (2003) use consequentialist reasoning when discussing the drug war. Summarize Husak’s argument for decriminalization. Summarize Sher’s argument for the continued criminalization of drugs.
7. Michelle Alexander (2010) gives an argument against the drug war. Briefly summarize this argument. Is the argument based on deontological or consequentialist reasoning? Explain.
8. What is moral dumbfounding? Hint: See the lesson called *The Game*.
9. According to Regan (1986), what is it that gives a being rights?
10. Regan has many arguments against competing ethical theories. What is Regan’s argument against Utilitarianism? In your answer, make sure to elaborate on the **cup analogy**.
11. Discuss Regan’s arguments against the following: virtue ethics, social contract theory.
12. What is Warren’s (1987) critique of Regan’s view? What is her alternative?
13. Define the following: MSP, MSO.
14. CRITICAL THINKING– What is Kant’s defense of MSP? Explain in detail. How do Utilitarians respond?
15. CRITICAL THINKING– Kearney and Coulter are both concerned about the status of children born to single-mothers. What kind of reasoning do they both use? A famous 19th century utilitarian, Henry Sidgwick (see [The Trolley](#), slide 36), argued on utilitarian grounds that maybe it is best that people didn’t know about utilitarianism. What could he mean by this? Is the extreme example of Coulter’s position an example of this? Is Coulter’s position justified on consequentialist grounds? Explain.
16. In *Seeing Justice Done*, we for the first time explicitly considered that **our sense of justice** might have multiple sources. What are Hobbes’ two sources of our sense of justice? Explain in detail.

17. What is Walter Bern's argument for capital punishment? How does Nathanson respond?
18. State Mill's argument for capital punishment as a *modus ponens*.
19. The ACLU argues against capital punishment. State their reasons.
20. CRITICAL THINKING- Consequentialist arguments were given both *for* and *against* capital punishment (by Mill and the ACLU, respectively). How should this be resolved? What does this tell you about consequentialism?
21. One's views on free will appear to have an effect on one's views on punishment, as in the case of Sapolsky (2017), D'Holbach, Engels, and Marx. Explain this correlation.
22. What is Kant's view on capital punishment?
23. Huemer (2010) considers several objections to his position. State the **economic objection** that he gives and summarize his response to it.
24. What are LaFollete's (1980) two criteria for regulation?
25. What is an argument for advocating the complete annihilation of mosquitoes using gene-editing techniques? Give a response to this argument.
26. Be familiar with the **reasons for dropping the nuclear bombs** covered in *Give Me Liberty Or...*
27. Define the following: game theory, zero-sum games, prisoner's dilemma.
28. CRITICAL THINKING- How can a prisoners' dilemma scenario undermine the view that reason ought to be our practical guide for all potential scenarios? Give the example from nuclear weapons. Explain in detail.
29. Define the following: jus ad bellum, jus in bello, jus post bellum, absolute pacifism, contingent pacifism, the peace-through-strength view.
30. Summarize Kant's recommendations for preventing war.
31. State Walzer's criteria for a just war and give a defence for this view from Utilitarian grounds.
32. CRITICAL THINKING- McPherson makes a nuanced point about a family of views closely related to Walzer's position which he calls "the dominant view." Carefully reconstruct his reasoning. What does he conclude? Be sure to state his conclusion as a disjunction, i.e., an either/or statement.