

## 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. CRITICAL THINKING- 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?
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**. Do you agree with Regan’s critique?
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. CRITICAL THINKING- Huemer (2010) argues that it is a prima facie rights violation to forcibly stop people from moving freely across borders. Summarize his argument (featuring Starvin’ Marvin) for this position. Are there any

important disanalogies between this thought-experiment and crossing the border illegally?

17. Huemer considers several objections to his position. State one of these objections and summarize Huemer's response to it.
18. What is Hardin's ([1996](#)) boat analogy? What does he conclude? State an objection (given by the instructor) that might undermine this analogy.
19. Why does Walzer ([2006](#)) believe modern terrorism is always wrong?
20. 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.
21. What are LaFollete's ([1980](#)) two criteria for regulation?
22. What is the prisoners' dilemma?
23. CRITICAL THINKING- How can a prisoners' dilemma scenario undermine the view that reason ought to be our practical guide for all potential scenarios?