

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Nail Senior Ethics Theories Quiz

Synthesize complex moral frameworks and analyze high-stakes scenarios through comparative logic and deontological critiques.

1. W.D. Ross proposed 'prima facie' duties to address flaws in rigid moral systems. Which scenario best illustrates a conflict between the duty of non-maleficence and the duty of fidelity?

Answer: A) Breaking a promise to a friend to prevent a serious physical assault on a stranger.

Ross's pluralism suggests duties like fidelity (keeping promises) can be overridden by more urgent duties like non-maleficence (preventing harm).

2. According to Thomas Aquinas's Doctrine of Double Effect, an action with a foreseeable evil outcome is permissible if the evil is the intended means to a greater good.

Answer: B) False

False. The Doctrine of Double Effect specifically mandates that the evil effect must be a byproduct, never the intended means to the good end.

3. In 'The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas,' Ursula K. Le Guin presents a city of perfect happiness dependent on the misery of one child. A strict _____ would argue this trade-off is morally mandatory.

Answer: A) Act Utilitarian

Act Utilitarianism focuses on the net calculation of happiness; the joy of thousands outweighs the suffering of one, regardless of individual rights.

4. Which concept from Immanuel Kant's 'Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals' prohibits using a human being merely as a tool for a specific end?

Answer: B) The Formula of Humanity

The Formula of Humanity (or End in Itself) states that one must always treat humanity as an end, never merely as a means.

5. Aristotle's Eudaimonia is achieved not through fleeting pleasure, but through the cultivation of _____, which represents the 'Golden Mean' between extremes.

Answer: B) Phronesis (Practical Wisdom)

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Phronesis is the intellectual virtue that allows a person to determine the 'Golden Mean' for moral virtues in specific contexts.

6. John Rawls's 'Veil of Ignorance' is a thought experiment designed to ensure that justice is determined without knowledge of one's own social status or talents.

Answer: A) True

Rawls argued that fair social contracts are created only when the 'legislators' do not know their place in the resulting society.

7. Philippa Foot's 'George and the Chemistry Job' dilemma critiques Utilitarianism by highlighting the problem of:

Answer: B) Personal Integrity and Agency

This dilemma argues that demanding someone take a job they find morally repugnant for the 'greater good' ignores the importance of an individual's integrity.

8. While Peter Singer argues for global charity based on _____, critics argue that we have special moral obligations to those closest to us, a central tenet of Care Ethics.

Answer: B) Impartiality

Singer's utilitarian view requires strict impartiality, treating the lives of strangers as equal in value to the lives of our own family.

9. An Ethical Egoist would argue that an individual should always act in a way that provides the most benefit to the community, even if it harms themselves.

Answer: B) False

False. Ethical Egoism posits that the promotion of one's own self-interest is the only moral obligation.

10. Contrast the Ring of Gyges (Plato) with Kant's Deontology. Why would a Kantian refuse to use the ring's power of invisibility for personal gain?

Answer: C) Because a maxim of stealing cannot be universalized without contradiction.

Kant's Categorical Imperative requires that we act only on maxims that could become universal laws; if everyone stole, the concept of property would vanish.