

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Ethical Endgame: 8th Grade Moral Theory & Dilemma Battle

Identifying foundational moral frameworks goes beyond simple memorization; students recognize structural patterns in deontological and utilitarian decision-making.

1. Which ethical theory suggests that an action is good if it produces the 'greatest good for the greatest number' of people?

Answer: C) Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism is a result-oriented theory that focuses on maximizing positive outcomes or 'utility' for the collective group.

2. In Deontology, the morality of an action is based on whether that action itself is right or wrong under a series of rules, rather than the consequences.

Answer: A) True

Deontology comes from the Greek word 'deon' (duty); it emphasizes following moral rules regardless of the outcome.

3. An ethical framework that focuses on the development of good character traits, such as bravery or generosity, is called _____ ethics.

Answer: B) Virtue

Virtue ethics shifts the focus from 'what should I do?' to 'what kind of person should I be?'

4. Imagine a ship is sinking and there is only one spot left on a lifeboat. A person who chooses the person most likely to save Others based on their medical skills is using which reasoning?

Answer: A) Utilitarianism

This choice seeks to maximize the future well-being of the survivors, which is a utilitarian approach.

5. A situation where a person is forced to choose between two or more conflicting moral principles is known as an ethical _____.

Answer: B) Dilemma

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A dilemma occurs when there is no clear 'perfect' choice, and different moral values point in opposite directions.

6. A person following Virtue Ethics would help a neighbor because they believe 'being a helpful person' is a core part of their identity.

Answer: A) True

Virtue ethics focuses on the internal motivation and character of the individual performing the action.

7. If a student finds a cheat sheet on the floor before a test and turns it in because 'stealing or cheating is always against the rules,' which theory are they following?

Answer: D) Deontology

Deontology is based on following universal moral laws and duties, regardless of any potential benefit from breaking them.

8. Emmanuel Kant, a famous philosopher, is most closely associated with the _____ approach to ethics.

Answer: B) Deontological

Kant argued for the 'Categorical Imperative,' which is a central concept in duty-based (deontological) ethics.

9. The primary goal of a Utilitarian is to make sure they personally gain the most profit from every situation.

Answer: B) False

False. Utilitarianism focuses on the collective happiness of everyone involved, not just the individual's personal gain (which is egoism).

10. Which of these best describes a 'consequentialist' view of ethics?

Answer: B) The rightness or wrongness of an act depends on its results.

Consequentialism is the umbrella term for theories like utilitarianism that judge an action by its final consequences.