

Answer Key: Think Twice: A Heart-pounding College Quiz on Moral Frameworks

Students grapple with classic ethical dilemmas by identifying core principles of duty, utility, and character in real-world professional and social conflicts.

1. A defense attorney remains committed to representing a client they know is guilty because the legal system requires every citizen to have a fair trial. Which ethical framework is most evident here?

Answer: B) Deontology

The attorney is acting based on a perceived duty to the legal system and universal rules of justice, which is a hallmark of Deontology.

2. In the philosopher Philippa Foot's traditional framework, a person who possesses _____, such as temperance or wisdom, acts morally because it is an expression of their developed character.

Answer: C) virtues

Virtue ethics focuses on the inherent qualities or 'virtues' of the individual rather than the specific rules or consequences.

3. The 'Principle of Utility' suggests that an action is right if it produces the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people.

Answer: A) True

This is the foundational definition of Utilitarianism, focusing on maximizing collective well-being or happiness.

4. If a pharmaceutical company decides to release a generic version of a life-saving drug at a loss to stop a local epidemic, which metric are they most likely using?

Answer: C) Utilitarianism (Consequences for public health)

The decision is based on the outcome (consequence) of saving many lives, which outweighs the financial loss.

5. Immanuel Kant's 'Categorical Imperative' is a central concept in _____, suggesting we should only act according to rules that we would want to become universal laws.

Answer: C) Deontology

Name: _____

Date: _____

Deontology is the study of duty and rules; Kant's Categorical Imperative is the most famous example of a duty-based rule.

6. Virtue Ethics primarily asks the question 'What is my duty?' rather than 'What kind of person should I be?'

Answer: B) False

Virtue Ethics focuses on character ('What kind of person should I be?'), whereas Deontology focuses on duty ('What is my duty?').

7. A whistleblower exposes corporate fraud because they believe 'integrity' is a core value they must uphold, regardless of the company's rules. This is an example of:

Answer: A) Virtue Ethics

Focusing on personal traits like 'integrity' aligns with the character-based approach of Virtue Ethics.

8. When a doctor has to decide which patient receives a single available ventilator, they are facing a classic _____ where multiple moral principles may conflict.

Answer: B) ethical dilemma

An ethical dilemma occurs when a person must choose between two or more conflicting moral requirements.

9. In a utilitarian framework, the 'right' choice is always the one that follows the law, regardless of the consequences.

Answer: B) False

Utilitarians care about the consequences (happiness/good), while Deontologists are more concerned with following rules or laws.

10. Which of these scenarios best illustrates a 'Duty-based' (Deontological) approach to returning a found item?

Answer: C) Returning it because 'Thou shalt not steal' is a universal moral rule.

Deontology focuses on following universal moral rules or duties, regardless of outcomes like happiness or rewards.