

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer Key: The Echo of the Gavel: An 8th Grade Ethics Inquest

Defend your positions on social contracts and intrinsic values in this rigorous review for your next philosophy unit.

1. A community must decide whether to build a dam that provides electricity to thousands but destroys a sacred ancestral forest for a small tribe. Which framework prioritizes the electricity for the many?

Answer: B) Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism is a consequentialist theory focused on the 'greatest good for the greatest number,' often favoring the majority outcome.

2. An individual who refuses to break a promise even when it results in a bad outcome is practicing ___ ethics, which focuses on moral duties.

Answer: C) Deontological

Deontological ethics, derived from the Greek word 'deon' (duty), suggests that certain actions are inherently right or wrong regardless of consequences.

3. Aristotle's 'Golden Mean' suggests that virtue is found by choosing the extreme version of a behavior to show total commitment.

Answer: B) False

False; the Golden Mean is the balance between two extremes (deficiency and excess), such as courage being the mean between cowardice and recklessness.

4. Imagine a whistleblower exposes a secret government surveillance program. A critic argues they 'betrayed their contract of employment.' Which concept are they using?

Answer: A) Social Contract Theory

Social Contract Theory deals with the implicit or explicit agreements individuals make with institutions or society to maintain order.

5. The 'Heinz Dilemma' often asks if a man should steal medicine to save his wife. A person focusing on the ___ of the man would use Virtue Ethics.

Answer: B) Character

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Virtue ethics shifts the focus from the action (stealing) or consequence (saving a life) to the character and intent of the person acting.

6. A cultural relativist believes that there is one single, universal moral code that applies to all people in all time periods.

Answer: B) False

False; cultural relativism argues that moral norms are defined by specific cultures and that no culture's ethics are superior to another's.

7. If a programmer designs an AI to prioritize the safety of the pedestrian over the driver in every scenario without exception, they are applying a:

Answer: A) Categorical Imperative

Immanuel Kant's Categorical Imperative suggests an unconditional moral obligation that is binding in all circumstances.

8. John Rawls proposed the 'Veil of ___' to help people design a fair society without knowing their own status or wealth.

Answer: C) Ignorance

The 'Veil of Ignorance' is a mental exercise where you decide on social rules without knowing if you will be rich, poor, healthy, or sick.

9. In a moral dilemma, there is typically one answer that is factually and scientifically proven to be 'right' while all others are 'wrong'.

Answer: B) False

False; the nature of a moral dilemma is that it involves a conflict between two or more competing moral requirements, neither of which overrides the other.

10. Which of these is an example of 'Intrinsic Value' rather than 'Instrumental Value'?

Answer: C) Happiness itself

Intrinsic value is something that is good in itself (like happiness or love), whereas money or a car is 'instrumental' because it is a tool to get something else.