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Date: _____

Answer Key: Should You Steal the Secret Sauce? Ethics Quiz for 6th Grade

Students analyze the Social Contract, synthesize the 'Veil of Ignorance,' and apply Kantian logic to complex modern dilemmas as a summative assessment.

1. A global company discovers their factory is polluting a river. A Utilitarian CEO would most likely decide to close the factory if:

Answer: B) The harm to the community's health is greater than the wealth the factory creates.

Utilitarianism focuses on the 'greatest good for the greatest number.' If the suffering of the community outweighs the profit, the Utilitarian would stop the action.

2. Immanuel Kant's 'Categorical Imperative' suggests that before you act, you should ask: 'Would I want this action to become a ___ law for everyone?'

Answer: B) Universal

Kant argued that an action is only moral if it could be applied as a universal law that everyone follows without causing a logical contradiction.

3. True or False: In the 'Veil of Ignorance' thought experiment, you should design society's rules without knowing if you will be rich, poor, healthy, or sick.

Answer: A) True

John Rawls's Veil of Ignorance asks us to be objective by stripping away our personal identity, ensuring that rules are fair for the most vulnerable members of society.

4. If a Virtue Ethisitcist is deciding whether to help a classmate cheat, they would focus most on:

Answer: B) What kind of person they become by choosing to be dishonest.

Virtue Ethics focuses on character and the cultivation of habits like honesty and integrity rather than just rules or consequences.

5. The 'Social ___' theory suggests that people live together in society in accordance with an agreement that establishes moral and political rules of behavior.

Answer: B) Contract

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The Social Contract (championed by thinkers like Hobbes and Locke) is the idea that we give up some individual freedoms in exchange for the protection and order of a group.

6. In the Dilemma of the 'Common Good,' why might a farmer choose NOT to overgraze their cows on shared land even if it adds to their personal wealth?

Answer: A) Because they are following a deontological duty to preserve the resource for all.

Deontology emphasizes duties and rules; a farmer might feel a moral obligation to the community's future health over their own immediate gain.

7. True or False: A Pure Utilitarian would agree that it is always wrong to break a promise, even if breaking it saves an entire city.

Answer: B) False

False. A Utilitarian evaluates the outcome. If breaking a promise leads to a massive increase in happiness (or decrease in suffering), they would support it.

8. Which ethical framework is most concerned with the 'Golden Mean'—the balance between two extremes of behavior?

Answer: C) Virtue Ethics

Aristotle's Virtue Ethics teaches the 'Golden Mean,' which suggests that a virtue (like courage) is the perfect balance between a deficiency (cowardice) and an excess (recklessness).

9. If a doctor follows a strict rule that they must NEVER lie to a patient, regardless of how much it might upset them, the doctor is acting as a ____.

Answer: B) Deontologist

Deontology is duty-based ethics. If the rule is 'Do not lie,' a deontologist follows that rule because it is their duty, not because of the consequence.

10. True or False: Ethical dilemmas are easy to solve because there is always one scientifically proven 'correct' answer.

Answer: B) False

Ethical dilemmas are 'dilemmas' precisely because they involve a conflict between two or more valid moral principles, making them complex and subjective.