

## Answer Key: Your Moral Compass: The Avengers Ethical Dilemma Quiz for 8th Grade

Critical analysis of social contracts and categorical imperatives goes beyond simple right or wrong to examine complex motivation and systemic justice.

**1. Imagine a leader who decides to redistribute all the city's wealth equally, even though it violates private property laws. They justify this because it will result in the greatest total happiness for the highest number of citizens. Which framework are they applying?**

**Answer:** B) Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism is a consequentialist theory centered on the 'Greatest Happiness Principle,' prioritizing the overall outcome for the majority.

**2. Immanuel Kant's 'Categorical Imperative' suggests that you should only act according to rules that you would want to become universal laws for everyone.**

**Answer:** A) True

Kant argued that ethical actions must be consistent; if an action cannot be willed as a universal law for all humanity, it is not morally permissible.

**3. Aristotle believed that being a 'good person' isn't about following rules, but about developing \_\_\_\_\_, which are stable character traits like bravery and temperance.**

**Answer:** B) Virtues

Virtue Ethics emphasizes the internal character (virtues) of the individual rather than the specific outcome of an action or a set of rigid rules.

**4. A scientist finds the cure for a rare disease but realizes the research was conducted using stolen data. Under a Deontological perspective, why might they choose NOT to publish?**

**Answer:** B) The act of stealing is inherently wrong, regardless of the positive outcome.

Deontology focuses on the morality of the action itself (the duty or rule) rather than the consequences of that action.

**5. In the 'Heinz Dilemma,' a man steals medicine he cannot afford to save his dying wife. If a person argues the theft is okay because 'a human life is more valuable than property rights,' what level of moral reasoning are they showing?**

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**Answer:** C) Post-conventional (Universal Principles)

Post-conventional reasoning (Kohlberg) involves evaluating dilemmas based on abstract universal ethical principles like justice and human rights over specific laws.

**6. When a person gives up some individual freedoms in exchange for the protection and order provided by a government, they are participating in a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) Social Contract

Social Contract theory, supported by thinkers like Hobbes and Locke, suggests that morality and political authority are based on an agreement between people.

**7. Ethical Egoism is the theory that individuals should act in their own self-interest as the foundation of morality.**

**Answer:** A) True

Ethical Egoism claims that it is necessary and sufficient for an action to be 'right' if it maximizes the individual's self-interest.

**8. The 'Golden Mean' is a concept from Aristotle suggesting that virtue is found between two extremes. If 'Courage' is the virtue, what are the two extremes (vices) it balances?**

**Answer:** B) Cowardice and Recklessness

Aristotle's Golden Mean defines virtue as the balance between deficiency (cowardice) and excess (recklessness).

**9. The philosophical idea that moral standards are not objective but instead vary based on different cultures and societies is known as Ethical \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** B) Relativism

Ethical Relativism suggests that 'right' and 'wrong' are subjective to culture, rejecting the idea of universal moral truths.

**10. In a 'Tragedy of the Commons' scenario, individuals acting in their own self-interest eventually destroy a shared resource, proving that egoism can hurt the collective good.**

**Answer:** A) True

A 'Tragedy of the Commons' illustrates the ethical conflict between individual interests and the sustainability of shared resources for the community.

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