

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Categorical Imperatives & Cyber-Ethics: A 12th Grade Philosophical Heist

Defend your moral logic by applying Kantian ethics and Contractualism to modern digital age dilemmas and high-stakes social scenarios.

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**1. A software engineer discovers a 'backdoor' in a banking app. While using it could redistribute wealth from corrupt executives to the poor, they refuse, citing that a world where all programmers built backdoors would lead to a collapse of digital trust. Which concept does this reflect?**

**Answer:** B) Kant's Categorical Imperative

The engineer is applying the 'Universalizability Test,' a core component of Kant's Categorical Imperative, which asks if an action could be willed as a universal law.

**2. According to the philosophy of \_\_\_\_\_, an action is right only if it is permitted by a set of rules for the general regulation of behavior that no one could reasonably reject.**

**Answer:** C) Contractualism

Contractualism, often associated with T.M. Scanlon, focuses on the 'reasonable rejectability' of moral principles rather than just consequences or pure duties.

**3. In W.D. Ross's theory of ethics, 'Prima Facie' duties are absolute obligations that can never be outweighed by other moral considerations.**

**Answer:** B) False

False. Prima Facie duties are 'at first sight' obligations that can conflict; one duty (like saving a life) may override another (like keeping a promise) in specific contexts.

**4. In the 'Experience Machine' thought experiment by Robert Nozick, why might someone refuse to plug into a simulated reality of perfect pleasure?**

**Answer:** B) Because authentic connection to reality has intrinsic value

Nozick used this experiment to critique Hedonistic Utilitarianism, arguing that humans value 'doing' and 'being' a certain way over just 'feeling' good.

**5. Cultural Relativism asserts that because different cultures have different moral codes, there is no objective 'truth' in morality.**

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**Answer:** A) True

True. Cultural Relativism is the meta-ethical position that morality is relative to the observer's social context and lacks a universal standard.

**6. A state implements a mandatory genetic screening program that saves thousands of lives through early intervention but violates individual privacy. A critic argues this treats citizens merely as 'tools for the state's health statistics.' This critic is using which framework?**

**Answer:** C) Kantianism (Formula of Humanity)

Kant's 'Formula of Humanity' dictates that you should never treat people merely as a means to an end, but always as ends in themselves.

**7. The concept of the \_\_\_\_\_, proposed by John Rawls, asks people to design a just society without knowing their own social status, wealth, or talents.**

**Answer:** B) Veil of Ignorance

The 'Veil of Ignorance' is a method of determining the morality of political issues based on objective fairness.

**8. If an ethical system argues that the 'rightness' of an action is determined by whether a person with a temperate, courageous, and just character would perform it, which theory is being used?**

**Answer:** C) Virtue Ethics

Virtue Ethics, rooted in Aristotelian thought, focuses on the character of the agent rather than specific rules or consequences.

**9. The 'Is-Ought Problem,' identified by David Hume, suggests that you cannot logically derive what should be done solely from a description of what is happening.**

**Answer:** A) True

True. Hume's Law argues that descriptive statements (facts) are fundamentally different from prescriptive statements (values).

**10. Peter Singer's argument regarding 'Famine, Affluence, and Morality' suggests that it is a \_\_\_\_\_ for wealthy individuals to give to the poor, rather than an act of charity.**

**Answer:** B) Moral duty

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Singer argues from a utilitarian perspective that if we can prevent something bad without sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, we are duty-bound to do so.