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37	A	B	C	D	E
38	A	B	C	D	E
39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST)

SN474

Ethics in America

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST) SN474 , each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, SN474
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

According to the classical ethical tradition in American moral philosophy, which of the following best defines the concept of 'the good'?

- ☐ A Whatever produces the greatest pleasure for the greatest number of people
- ☒ B The conformity of an action to a rule or principle that is itself derived from human reason or divine command
- ☐ C The sum total of consequences produced by an action across all affected parties
- ☐ D The personal preference of the individual moral agent at the moment of decision

ANSWER B

WHY In the classical moral tradition most often discussed in Ethics in America (drawing on natural law theorists such as Aquinas, and on deontological thinkers like Kant), 'the good' is defined in terms of conformance to a moral rule or principle grounded in reason or divine law. Utilitarianism (A, C) defines the good in terms of consequences, and subjectivism (D) defines it in terms of personal preference, so those are incorrect.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

A student argues that 'what is morally right depends entirely on the cultural norms of the society in which an action is performed.' Which ethical theory is the student endorsing?

- ☐ A Ethical absolutism
- ☒ B Ethical relativism
- ☐ C Divine command theory
- ☐ D Deontological ethics

ANSWER B

WHY The student's claim — that moral rightness is determined by the cultural norms of a given society — is the defining claim of ethical relativism (specifically cultural relativism). Ethical absolutism holds that certain actions are right or wrong regardless of cultural belief, divine command theory ties morality to God's will, and deontological ethics ties morality to duty or rules rather than to culture.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following ethical theories emphasizes the development of moral character and the cultivation of virtues such as courage, temperance, and justice as the foundation of ethical life?

- ☐ A Utilitarianism
- ☐ B Deontology
- ☒ C Virtue ethics
- ☐ D Ethical egoism

ANSWER C

WHY Virtue ethics, associated with Aristotle, focuses on the development of moral character and the cultivation of virtues, rather than on consequences (utilitarianism), duties (deontology), or self-interest (ethical egoism).

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

A company discovers that a practice, while legal under current federal regulations, has serious ethical implications for public safety. According to the standard analysis in Ethics in America, how should the relationship between law and ethics be understood in this case?

- ☐ A If an action is legal, it is automatically ethical
- ☐ B If an action is ethical, it must also be made law
- ☐ C Legality is a necessary but not sufficient condition of ethical conduct
- ☒ D Legality establishes only a minimum standard of ethical conduct and an action can be legal yet unethical

ANSWER D

WHY A central theme of Ethics in America is that law and ethics are related but distinct. Law typically establishes a minimum standard of conduct; an action can be perfectly legal and still be unethical (as well as ethical actions that are not legally required). Therefore, legality is neither necessary nor sufficient for ethical conduct, ruling out A, B, and C.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

In contemporary biomedical ethics, the principle of 'autonomy' requires that a physician do which of the following?

- ☐ A Always act to preserve the patient's life regardless of the patient's wishes
- ☐ B Maximize the overall medical benefit to society when allocating scarce resources
- ☒ C Obtain informed consent from a competent patient before proceeding with treatment
- ☐ D Avoid causing harm even when the patient has consented to a risky procedure

ANSWER C

WHY The principle of autonomy, central to biomedical ethics, requires that competent patients be given the information necessary to make their own decisions and that their informed consent be obtained before treatment. A is closer to paternalism/beneficence, B is utilitarian allocation, and D is the principle of non-maleficence.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees several fundamental freedoms. Which of the following is NOT among the freedoms explicitly protected by the First Amendment?

- ☐ A Freedom of religion
- ☐ B Freedom of speech
- ☐ C Freedom of the press
- ☒ D Freedom from self-incrimination

ANSWER D

WHY The First Amendment protects the freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. Freedom from self-incrimination is protected by the Fifth Amendment, not the First. A, B, and C are all explicitly listed in the First Amendment.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

A journalist receives confidential information from a source who explicitly asked not to be named. Publishing the story would expose a serious public harm, and the journalist could protect the source by never revealing the identity. From the standpoint of Ethics in America, this situation primarily illustrates a conflict between which two ethical duties?

- ☐ A Duty to personal safety and duty to family
- ☒ B Duty to truth-telling and duty to keep a promise
- ☐ C Duty to charity and duty to self-interest
- ☐ D Duty to obey the law and duty to vote

ANSWER B

WHY The scenario pits the journalist's duty to tell the truth and inform the public against the duty to keep the promise made to the source. This truth-telling vs. promise-keeping conflict is a classic ethical dilemma discussed in Ethics in America. The other options do not describe the core tension in the scenario.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following best describes a 'conflict of interest' in a professional setting?

- ☒ A A situation in which a professional's personal interests could improperly influence the exercise of professional judgment on behalf of a client or employer
- ☐ B A situation in which two professionals disagree about the best course of action for a client
- ☐ C A situation in which a client refuses to follow the professional's recommended course of action
- ☐ D A situation in which a professional is overworked and must decline additional clients

ANSWER A

WHY A conflict of interest occurs when a professional's personal interests (financial, familial, or otherwise) could compromise the impartial exercise of professional judgment on behalf of a client, employer, or the public. The other options describe disagreements, refusals of advice, or workload issues, none of which inherently involve a competing personal interest.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are major Western ethical theories emphasized in Ethics in America? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Utilitarianism
- ☐ **B** Stoic physics
- ☒ **C** Deontology
- ☐ **D** Alchemical mysticism

ANSWER **A** • **C**

WHY Ethics in America highlights utilitarianism (associated with Bentham and Mill) and deontology (associated most prominently with Kant) as two of the major Western ethical theories, alongside virtue ethics. Stoic physics is a component of ancient Stoic cosmology, and alchemical mysticism is not an ethical theory, so B and D are incorrect.