

--Question Starting--

1. In a society where public trust is low, an official introduces a new policy aimed at reducing corruption by increasing transparency and accountability in government operations. Despite initial support, the policy is met with skepticism and resistance from certain sectors of the public. Which of the following best explains the persistence of resistance to anti-corruption measures in this context?

- (1) People inherently distrust any changes proposed by officials, regardless of their potential benefits.
- (2) Resistance is mainly due to a lack of understanding of the policy details among the public.
- (3) Skepticism arises from a deeply ingrained perception that any official action may be inherently self-serving, reflecting a crisis of legitimacy.
- (4) The public believes that increased transparency would inadvertently expose sensitive information, thus compromising national security.

Answer Key: 3

Solution:

? Option 1 (Incorrect): While inherent distrust might be present, it doesn't specifically address why there's resistance to this anti-corruption measure.

? Option 2 (Incorrect): Lack of understanding could contribute to resistance, but it does not deeply address the underlying issues of legitimacy and trust in the official's actions.

? Option 3 (Correct): The perception of self-serving actions by officials, despite the intention of the policies, speaks directly to a crisis of legitimacy and everyday morality affecting public trust and acceptance.

? Option 4 (Incorrect): Concerns over national security are specific and do not generally relate to opposition against transparency in government operations.

Hence, Option (3) is the right answer.

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2. Reflecting on James C. Scott's "The Moral Economy of the Peasant," consider a scenario where a new agricultural policy increases market efficiency but leads to significant distress among small-scale farmers. Based on Scott's arguments, which option best captures the ethical critique of such a policy from a moral economy perspective?

- (1) The policy fails because it does not account for the traditional values and subsistence needs of the peasant community.
- (2) Efficiency gains are negated by the increased administrative costs required to implement the new policy.
- (3) The primary critique is that market efficiency cannot be the sole criterion for policy evaluation; it must also consider the social and moral impact on vulnerable populations.
- (4) Small-scale farmers are not equipped with the necessary technology to compete in an efficiency-driven market, thus the policy is flawed.

Answer Key: 3

Solution:

? Option 1 (Incorrect): While this touches on important aspects, it frames the issue more around traditional values rather than integrating Scott's broader moral economy argument.

? Option 2 (Incorrect): Increased administrative costs are a practical concern, but they do not directly address the moral or ethical implications discussed by Scott.

? Option 3 (Correct): This captures the essence of Scott's argument that policies should be evaluated not just on economic grounds but also based on their impact on social structures and moral obligations to the peasantry.

? Option 4 (Incorrect): Technological challenges are indeed a concern, but this doesn't directly relate to the moral economy perspective that focuses on the ethical implications of economic decisions.

Hence, Option (3) is the right answer.

--Question Starting--

3. A company introduces a new product line with a launch event that blends religious symbols with promotional activities, aiming to tap into the cultural sentiments of a largely secular consumer base. Which of the following best critiques this strategy from the perspective of secularization, sacralization, and market rituals?

(1) The use of religious symbols in marketing campaigns can lead to sacralization of the brand, potentially alienating secular consumers who may see this as an inappropriate fusion of commerce and sacred elements.

(2) Such a strategy is highly effective as it enhances brand loyalty by embedding products within the cultural and spiritual lives of consumers.

(3) The strategy risks trivializing sacred symbols and rituals, leading to a backlash from both secular and religious communities who might view the commercial use of sacred elements as disrespectful.

(4) Integration of religious symbols will likely increase market reach by appealing directly to the emotional and spiritual inclinations of consumers.

Answer Key: 1

Solution:

? Option 1 (Correct): This option effectively addresses the potential negative reaction from secular consumers who might view the commercial use of religious symbols as a disrespectful or inappropriate blend, leading to what can be seen as sacralization of the brand.

? Option 2 (Incorrect): While embedding products in cultural and spiritual lives can enhance brand loyalty, it ignores the potential backlash from those who might view such strategies as inappropriate or disrespectful.

? Option 3 (Incorrect): Although it points out possible backlash, it does not focus specifically on the secularization aspect and how secular consumers might react to the fusion of sacred elements with commercial activities.

? Option 4 (Incorrect): This option assumes a positive outcome without considering the complexities involved in mixing religious symbols with marketing, particularly concerning secular sensitivities.

Hence, Option (1) is the right answer.