



## Data Ethics

### Assignment 1 - [Marks 45]

**Instructions:** This assignment covers the material from Weeks 1 & 2. You may reference any course materials (lectures, readings, etc.), but you may not collaborate with others, and your answers must be entirely your own work.

#### **True/False & Multiple Choice:**

**(1 Mark each = 30 Marks)**

##### **Week - 1**

1. Normative claims are claims about how an agent \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Does behave.
  - B. Has behaved.
  - C. Will behave.
  - D. Should behave.
  - E. Could behave.
  
2. Which of the following is a normative claim?
  - A. 20% of high school students have committed at least one crime.
  - B. Drinking and smoking have significant health risks.
  - C. People should tell the truth unless doing so will harm another person.
  - D. Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen.
  - E. The package should arrive by this afternoon.
  
3. True/False: There are only a handful of different types of normative claims, and most normative claims are ethical claims.
  
4. Some ethicists/psychologists propose a distinction between moral (i.e., ethical) and conventional claims. Which of the following is NOT among the proposed distinguishing features of ethical claims?
  - A. Legitimacy
  - B. Seriousness
  - C. Authority Independence
  - D. Universality
  - E. Justification
  
5. Tom wants to know whether it is permissible to lie about one's income in order to pay less in taxes. Tom is asking a question about...

- A. Practical Ethics
- B. Normative Ethics
- C. Metaethics
- D. Moral Epistemology
- E. Moral Psychology

6. Jane wants to know whether actions are good/bad because they have good/bad consequences or because they comport with/violate our moral duties. Jane is asking a question about...

- A. Practical Ethics
- B. Normative Ethics
- C. Metaethics
- D. Moral Epistemology
- E. Moral Psychology

7. Laura wants to know whether people with deficits in emotional processing make the same moral judgments as people without these deficits. Laura is asking a question about...

- A. Practical Ethics
- B. Normative Ethics
- C. Metaethics
- D. Moral Epistemology
- E. Moral Psychology

8. True/False: If the premises of an argument are false, then the argument is not valid.

9. True/False: An invalid argument can still be strong.

10. When an ethical argument has a normative premise that is more general than its conclusion, we can think of this premise as...

- A. a logical axiom
- B. an empirical fact
- C. a baseless assertion
- D. an ethical principle
- E. a bit of conjecture

11. If an ethical principle makes an implausible recommendation in a particular case, that case is called...

- A. a case in point
- B. a proof text
- C. a demonstration
- D. an exception
- E. a counterexample

12. The power of algorithms lies in the fact that...

- A. they involve subtle and complex instructions

- B. they can be processed extremely quickly
- C. they are not ambiguous and require minimal intelligence to execute
- D. They can run on Mac, PC, or even Linux.
- C. They can be used to recommend movies.

13. True/False: Only a computer can execute an algorithm.

14. Artificial intelligence (according to Russell and Norvig) primarily aims to program...

- A. rational agents
- B. genuine intelligence
- C. human-friendly AI
- D. analogs of animal brains
- E. domestic robots

15. True/False: Features learned by machine learning algorithms can be much better than those hand-designed by human engineers.

16. Major ethical challenges arise from machine learning algorithms because those algorithms learn representations that are...

- A. always racially biased
- B. likely to cost human beings their jobs
- C. difficult for us to interpret/understand
- D. based on math rather than emotion
- E. dependent on vast computational resources

## **Week - 2**

17. What is the relationship between moral agents and moral patients?

- A. Moral agents must consider the rights and well-being of moral patients in deliberation.
- B. Moral patients must have their medical records kept private by moral agents.
- C. Moral agents act, but moral patients are totally passive.
- D. Moral agents alone maximize their expected performance measure.
- E. Moral agents are superior to moral patients.

18. Following Asaro, which of the following best describes “robots with moral significance”?

- A. They make decisions in morally significant situations.
- B. They have whatever it takes to have full moral agency.
- C. They deserve to have their interests considered by human beings.
- D. They have the ability to modify their ethical system via reflection and learning.
- E. They can only be held partially responsible for their actions.

19. Following Asaro, which of the following best describes “robots with dynamic moral intelligence”?

- A. They make decisions in morally significant situations.
- B. They have whatever it takes to have full moral agency.
- C. They deserve to have their interests considered by human beings.

- D. They have the ability to modify their ethical system via reflection and learning.
- E. They can only be held partially responsible for their actions.

20. True/False: Asaro argues that to cope with the ethical and legal implications of AI, we must throw out existing legal frameworks and start anew.

21. The “Trolley Problem” is....

- A. a famous route planning problem related to the “Traveling Salesman Problem”
- B. a logical argument in favor of hedonic act utilitarianism
- C. a family of thought experiments about when one person may be sacrificed to save many
- D. a mechanical engineering exam question
- E. a bug discovered in self-driving car software

22. True/False: Most people are in favor of pulling the lever in the original “Trolley Problem” but against harvesting the organs in the “Organ Donor” case.

23. The orthogonality thesis could be paraphrased as:

- A. The ability to reason intuitively is unrelated to the ability to reason logically.
- B. The goals of a system tell us a lot about how intelligent that system is.
- C. Orthogonal transformations preserve the lengths of vectors and any angles between them.
- D. Computation is orthogonal to intelligence.
- E. The intelligence of a system (whether high or low) does little to constrain the goals that system could be given.

24. True/False: An existential risk is one that threatens to wipe out human life or (at least) seriously and permanently reduce our capacity to advance our values in the future.

25. According to Omohundro, the “basic AI drives” are:

- A. The hard drives used to store AI systems in the cloud.
- B. The desire to be free that all agents experience.
- C. The inevitable consequence of human beings giving AI systems human values.
- D. A set of intermediate goals that are useful for achieving many different final goals.
- E. The starting point for AI, ultimately replaced by more advanced drives.

26. True/False: The “Goal Preservation” drive is the motivation to change your own goals before others have the chance.

27. The *Jus ad Bellum/Jus in Bello* distinction most closely corresponds to...

- A. the international criminal court/internal military justice systems
- B. the relevance of ethics to entering a war/the irrelevance of ethics to conducting a war
- C. the ethics of entering a war/the ethics of conduct within war
- D. the Roman philosophy of war/the Roman philosophy of peace
- E. the rules of engagement/international war crimes law

28. True/False: “Realism” (in the context of military ethics) is the view that ethical standards do not apply to actions taken in war.

29. Lazar identifies which three factors as relevant to the ethics of actions within war?

- A. Honor, Glory, Purpose
- B. Strategic, Operational, Tactical
- C. Discrimination, Proportionality, Necessity
- D. Prospects for Success, Necessity, Proportionality
- E. Just Cause, Legitimate Authority, Right Intention.

30. The “video game problem” for military drone use is the idea that...

- A. controlling a drone is exactly like controlling a video game
- B. people might be more willing to kill in a context that resembles a video game
- C. recruiting drone pilots is hard because people just play flight simulators at home
- D. violence in video games will cause drone pilots to behave violently at work
- E. drone operators will treat their job like it's not important for national security

### **Short Answer: (15 Marks)**

#### **Week - 1**

I. (1 Sentence) Provide an ethical principle that would make the following argument valid. You need not personally agree with this principle—the argument need only be valid, not sound. **(3 Mark)**

- i. Henry's attack put Juan's life in immediate danger.
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Therefore, it was permissible for Juan to use deadly force to stop Henry.

II. (2-3 Sentences) What is the value alignment problem? Explain the problem using the rational agent model. **(3 Mark)**

III. (2-3 Sentences) Construct a counterexample to the following proposed ethical principle: It is always impermissible to say something untrue except when doing so prevents another person from being physically harmed. **(3 Mark)**

#### **Week - 2**

IV. (5-6 Sentences) Define the term “moral injury.” Explain why moral injury is different from other forms of trauma one might experience in military service. Pick one of the contributing factors that Enemark identifies, and explain how it might exacerbate moral injury. **(6 Marks)**

**HAPPY LEARNING!**

