

Sequence 07 - Virtue Ethics Part 2 (24S1)

Activity 1: Mini Quiz

Now, it's time to briefly test yourself on what you've just learned! Answer the three multiple choice questions below.

Your responses here will not count towards the final grade for this course. However, you will be unable to proceed with the session until you answer all the questions correctly.

1

Virtue ethicists deny that virtuous people give conflicting advice, because...

Choose one of the following answers.

- Generally, there is only one virtuous person and you should listen to only that person.
- **The advice of perfectly virtuous people would not conflict.**
- If there is conflict, it must be a misunderstanding on the part of the advice-seeker.
- If there is conflict, we must rank the virtues in question and try to achieve the most superior one.

2

Why do virtue ethicists think virtues are necessary to any good human life?

Choose one of the following answers.

- Because virtue ethicists do not necessarily equate a condition of "feeling good" with the state of human flourishing.
- Because there is a necessary connection between exercising reason and virtue.
- Because the notion of happiness (eudaimonia) is not strictly defined by the amount of pleasure that one feels at any given moment.
- **All of the above.**

3

We have reasons to believe character traits are real because...

Choose one of the following answers.

- Psychological experiment results, such as the Stanford Prison Experiment and the Milgram Experiment, do not prove that character traits are not real. The participants in the study are not morally consistent people.
- Being virtuous isn't all-or-nothing and exists on a continuum.
- Being virtuous in some (although not all) situations still counts for something.
- **All of the above.**

Final Activity: Graded Quiz

You have reached the last compulsory activity for this session.

On the next page is a quiz, comprising ten multiple choice questions related to what we have covered in this sequence.

There is only one correct response to each question. You can attempt the quiz up to 3 times. Your score from your last attempt of the quiz **will count towards your overall grade** for this course.

1

According to virtue ethics, is it true that different virtuous people could give conflicting advice?

Choose one of the following answers.

- False. When conflicting advice arises, it must be because the advice comes from less-than-perfect virtuous people, so you should listen to the person who has obtained the most virtues compared to the rest.
- Correct. We cannot decide whether there is a virtue that trumps the rest of them, so different virtuous people will have their "favourite" virtue.
- **False. A perfectly virtuous person has possession of all the virtues and therefore can rationally balance conflicting considerations.**
- True. Everyone obtains practical wisdom differently.

2

Is it possible to have a good life without being virtuous, according to Aristotle.

Choose one of the following answers.

- **All of the options listed here are correct.**
- No, because happiness does not purely come from material gains.
- No, because happiness requires the exercise of reason.
- No, because happiness is not a temporary state of consciousness.

3

What does the Stanford prison experiment and the Milgram electric shock experiment show?

Choose one of the following answers.

- **External factors, rather than internal traits, primarily drive our actions.**
- Character traits are real under stressful situations.
- It is impossible to be virtuous when your life is in danger.
- People develop new personalities according to the demand of the situation, and these new traits cause them to behave differently.

4

Despite situationist studies like the Stanford Prison Experiment, why do virtue ethicists think character traits are real?

Choose one of the following answers.

- Because being virtuous exists on a continuum - being virtuous in some situation still counts for something.
- Because we can introspect and discover them within ourselves.
- Because psychologists have proven that certain genes are associated with certain character traits and we can identify them before birth.
- Because throughout history we have seen real moral exemplars.

5

Why is whistleblowing a moral dilemma?

Choose one of the following answers.

- Because there are good reasons for and against it.
- Because there may be competing and conflicting virtues.
- Because it has real practical implications that affect the welfare of the whole society.
- All of the options listed here are correct.

6

What would the virtuous person do in a whistleblowing moral dilemma?

Choose one of the following answers.

- Trump justice and compassion over loyalty, prudence and obedience, because protecting all the victims should be top priority in all situations.
- None of the virtues in conflict (compassion, justice, loyalty, prudence and obedience) should absolutely trump another, but there is only one answer as to whether whistleblowing is right or wrong for any given situation.
- None of the other options listed here are correct.
- There is no simple rule that the moral exemplar can follow. Sometimes even the perfectly virtuous person would have difficulty deciding what to do.

7

If an action is morally required...

Choose one of the following answers.

- Then it is not morally wrong to do the action.
- Then it is morally wrong not to do the action.
- All of the options listed here are correct.
- Then it is morally permissible.

8

According to DeGeorge's 5-step model of whistleblowing, what is the added crucial virtue that must be exercised during stage 4 and 5 when whistleblowing becomes morally required?

Choose one of the following answers.

- When the employee has good reason to believe that publicising the information will bring about the changes required.
- When all internal possibilities are exhausted, but the concern is still not dealt with.
- When concern has been reported to the immediate supervisor.
- When the firm will do serious harm to employees, product users or others.

9

In DeGeorge's 5-step model of whistleblowing, what is the added crucial virtue that must be exercised during stage 4 and 5 when whistleblowing becomes morally required?

Choose one of the following answers.

- Prudence, because exercising good judgment and caution is the only way that we can decide whether whistleblowing will bring about the changes.
- Loyalty, because we must be loyal to our customers the same way we are to our employers.
- Compassion, because we must sympathise with the victims.
- Justice, because the victims' welfare is always the most important concern.

10

When whistleblowing is merely morally permissible, we should...

Choose one of the following answers.

- Recognise the chance that the necessary changes might not be made, even after one blows the whistle.
- All of the options listed here are correct.
- Display justice and compassion, because we must think about the danger or serious harm that the product or policy will do to the product users.
- Display loyalty and obedience, and try to seek internal solutions first and avoid unnecessary harm to the company's reputation.