Chap 2

1. Define in your own words what “the ethical point of view” means.

“The ethical point of view” means that it shows the way we look at other things based on what is right and what is wrong. For example, the issue on same sex marriages. In some other countries, same sex marriages are now legal. Here in our country, many people wants to make it legal because of a great number of gays and lesbians. But it does not stop here, a lot of people are also not into it. Mostly catholic believers are anti same sex marriages because of their own beliefs.

2. Define morality and ethics in your own words.

Morality plays an important and crucial role in formulating our ethical theories. It is widely used in the society to have an existng code of conduct that applies to all the human beings. This is what differentiates our actions between right and wrong. On the other hand, ethics is a set of principles that examines our moral beliefs and behavior. It is a branch of philosophy that deals with the values relating to human conduct according to its rightness and wrongness. I believe that ethics is a collection of a person’s morality based on his/her decision of what is right and what is wrong.

3. What is the difference between morality and ethics?

The difference between morality and ethics is that in morality, it is what our opinions are with what is right and what is wrong. It also serves as our own reflections patterned to our understandings. On the other hand, ethics is our standard of applying the concept of morality. With morality, it generally speaks the spritual standing of a person. While ethics considers other people standing one by one.

4. What is the difference between relativism and objectivism?

In relativism, it is a view that depends on the person’s mind what he/she think about the action whether it is right or wrong. If the person thinks that the action is not right because the purpose of the action is to get a revenge from the other person then what that person observation is right. While objectivism is a view that depends on everyone’s mind what they think about the action whether it is right or wrong. An example of this is the concubine of the muslims. The muslims think that it is a good tradition because it is not harmful to the people. In a catholic view, they think that it is not a good tradition and it is therefore harmful to its people.

5. What are the advantages of using an ethical theory in which all humans are treated equally and

guidelines are developed through a process of logical reasoning?

The advantages of using an ethical theory in which all humans are treated equally and guidelines are developed through a process of logical reasoning is that all humans will not suffer from poverty. Another advantage would be no people would commit crimes. With this advantages, I think it would create a peaceful world for everyone because they are following the rules.

6. What do we mean when we say an ethical theory is rational?

When we say that ethical theory is rational it means that people deliberately considers things first before making any conclusions in his/her actions. It also means that when you make a decision it is not just reasoned for the sake of having a reason but it has a goal to solve a problem. Ethical theories are rational because they exercise the ability to reason out. It has a consistent logical explanation on why it is wrong or right. Moreover, it validates information and the reasoning of the agent who is using it.

7. What is the many/any fallacy? Invent your own example of this fallacy.

The many fallacy asks rhetorical questions which cannot be answered without admitting that a presupposition may be a false. This fallacy concludes that you are still guilty even if you answered yes or no. For example, the teacher asks you if are the one who is noisy. Ofcourse, you would not really tell your teacher if you were really that one. Given the fact that the teacher saw you being noisy even though you did not tell him/her, the teacher would assume that you did. You won’t have to defend your side whether you are innocent or not.

8. What is the equivalence fallacy? Invent your own example of this fallacy.

The equivalence fallacy seeks to draw comparisons between different, often unrelated things, to make a point that one is just as bad as the other or just as good as the other. It is basically defining a distinct and conflicting moral behavior. It can be used to draw conclusion, given two scenarios that have different worlds which is the good and the bad. Just to compare that there is a good and bad one. Or the other way around.

9. Come up with your own example of a moral rule that would violate Categorical Imperative.

An example of a moral rule that would violate Categorial Imperative is expressing your own opinion. We all know that expressing our own opinion is our right. But then when the teachers discusses things with us and he/she points out something, it expresses his/her idea. Some of the teachers, when they ask the students what their opinions are they are afraid to raise up their hand and speak up because some of the teachers contradicts what they say then they will say that it is wrong.

10. What is plagiarism? Describe four different ways that a person can commit plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an unauthorized use of someone’s original work. In addition to that, it is a form of cheating that represent’s someone elses words and thoughts without any references. When a person is caught, there is a law that states that you can be punished in this action. A person can commit plagiarism in many ways. First is by not citing his/her sources at the end of a research paper. Second is when a person is copying word per word or phrase by phrase the author’s work whether it’s written in the book or in the internet. Third is when he/she steals an entire paper from another person without any permission. And lastly by not putting quotation marks in what the author had said.

11. What is the difference between plagiarism and misuse of sources?

In plagiarism, the person do it intentionally. This happens when that person copies entirely the whole work of someone else orginal work. The person intentionally does not include his/her sources afterwards. Then he/she takes full credit of it. For example, you are in a hurry and you really need that homework to be passed on time. You intentionally copied all of your classmates homework without having it paraphrased. While when you say misuse of sources, the person does not do it intentionally. He/she paraphrases his/her classmate’s work but paraphase it incorrectly.

12. What is the difference between a consequentialist theory and a non-consequentialist theory?

Consequentialist theory believes that if an act of a person brings good things to others means that, that person’s deed is right. Otherwise, if the an act of a person brings bad things to others this means that the person’s deed is wrong. It states that an act is right or wrong depending on its consequences. A suitable example for this theory is Pinocchio’s story. All of us know that Pinocchio always lies with his friends. His actions are therefore bad because as we can see lying is a sin but his intention for the society is good.

13. Give three examples of a situation in which your action would be primarily motivated by a sense of duty or obligation. Give three examples of a situation in which your action would be primarily motivated by its expected consequences.

Examples of a situation in which actions would be primarily motivated by a sense of duty or obligation is when you get married. Getting married would automatically means that you promised to love the person and your duty is to love and care for each other until you get old. Another example is when you enroll yourself in a school. In school, your duty as a student is to study for your lessons and do the homeworks given by the teacher. Lastly, the duty of mothers to their children. Same as being married, mothers should care and love their children. They are obligated to protect them.

Examples of situations in which action would be primarily motivated by its expected consequences is when you lie to someone, when you cheat in an exam and when you commit a crime. This examples will definitely have consequences based on your actions.

14. What is the problem of moral luck?

The problems of moral luck is when actions do not have the intented consequences and the agent did not intended to do that event and be blamed after. For example, there are two drivers. Driver A and driver B. They both have the same speed and velocity. Driver A beats the red light with a fast speed and accidentally hit a old woman passing by the street. Meanwhile, driver B also beats the red light with a fast speed but he did not caused any accidents. He just got a ticket for the violation of beating the red light. If someone has to evaluate these two drivers, I think the evaluator will say that driver A must be punished while driver B must not. In that case, the problem of moral luck enters because for me they should be equally punish for what they did. Driver A did not really intentionally kill the old woman.

15. Why do businesses and governments often use utilitarian thinking to determine the proper course of action?

The businesses and governments often use utilitarian thinking to determine the proper course of action because they already know that the basis for the proper course action will have a big benefit for most of the people. Their mission and vision is for the greater good of most of the people in their country. To serve and protect them in the right way. This means that if a certain thing is good, it will have a good effect and if it is not, it will have a bad effect for the government and business.

16. What is the difference principle?

Principles means that in this world, there are inequalities that we should accept. Not all things in this world are equal. To be able to have a greater benefit for all, we must arrange those aspects of the world in order of what we need the most. I think this will develop equality and comradery within our place. This will also help us balance the way of life because in our society today all of the people are only thinking of themselves.

17. Is social contract theory as first presented a consequentialist theory or a non-consequentialist theory? Is social contract theory as articulated in Rawls’s two principles of justice a consequentialist theory or non-consequencialist theory?

I believe that whether an action is good or bad, it will definitely have a consequence. But ofcourse, if your action is good, it will have a good consequence and when it is bad, it will return a bad consequence. Therefore, I think social contract theory as first presented is a consequentialist theory. As what I have seen in the book, utilitarianism is a consequentialist theory because it focuses on the consequences of the action itself.

18. Describe similarities and differences between divine command theory and Kantianism.

The similarity between divine command theory and Kantianism is that they have their own universal moral guidelines for the people to follow. There is only one maxim that all the individuals use for making theoir own decisions. Their differences is that in divine command theory, they are obliged to follow God because they believe that it holds morality according to God’s Will. They also believe that because God created literally everything in the world, they therefore concluded that he also created morality. While in Kantianism, they believe that there is a formulation rule. This states that “Act only according to that maxim by which you can at the same time will that it would become a universal law” and “ Act so that you always treat others as an end, and never as means to an end only”.

19. Describe similarities and differences between subjective relativism and act utilitarianism.

In subjective relativism it is a little bit biased, resulting to the unhappiness of other people. In an act utilitarianism, it aims for the happiness of other people. Their similiarities are the following: First, they have a moral code but they do not follow it. Second, even though they have a moral code, they say that there is really no basis of finding out which is right and which is wrong. Lastly, these theories are only based from what they believe and think what is right for the benefit of the whole community.

20. Describe similarities and differences between Kantianism and Rule Utilitarianism.

The similarities between them is that it considers all of the people before they make a judgement. Rule Utilitarianism says that if an action is good for atleast one person, it will be automatically be good for all. Otherwise, if it is bad, it will be definitely bad for all. With Kantianism, it is the other way around. It focuses on the person’s action more than for the good of others. They believe that there is the person’s action has some intention on why he/she did it. It basically answers the question “why the person did that”.

21. Describe similarities and differences between act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism.

When we say that it is act utilitarianism, it means that it focuses on the consequences of the action whether it is good or bad. While rule utilitarianism is based on the rules of conduct and important principles of the country. We considers this things before anything else. First, it must be based on the rules then if it normally accepted in the principle, the act can be performed already. Its similarity is that these two are needed for the action take place.

22. Describe similarities and differences between cultural relativism and social contract theory.

The difference is that in cultural relativism it varies from culture to culture. They have an equal view of each others culture. There is no comparing or better than the other. The opinion of a person coming from the other culture is not different from the opinion of a person coming from another culture. Their views are not viewed best or worst. On the other hand, in social contract, society accepts the rules for their mutual benefit. In addition to that, it has a set of rules that governs the behavior of the people that they will accept as rational people and accept them as well in return. While the simmilarity betwen the two is that their moral rules reflect their respective behaviors.

23. Describe similarities and differences between Kantianism and social contract theory.

The social contract theory is more focused on the social and political obligations of the person. Whether he/she followed his/her obligations. Kantianism presents more on the moral rules. His/her action is judged based on what is written inside the book of morals. Their similarities is that they are judged according to what is right and what is wrong but also depends on the consequences of the actions. It also measures the fairness.

24. Evaluate the four scenarios presented in Section 2.1 from a Kantian Perspective.

Scenario 1: I think from a kantian perspective, what she did was wrong because she used the college’s facility to be able to have a passing mark for her to enter a college and be granted a scholarship. The fact that she lied when she was asked by the librarian is wrong already. Lies are sins that should be prevented.

Scenario 2: What the organization did was wrong because they were only the ones who benefited from the anti-spam. They only did it just to satisfy there ends. They did not think of the others.

Scenario 3: There was nothing wrong with what the FBI did. I think they asked permission first before using the technology. And they have a good intention with using that technology for the benefit of many people.

Scenario 4: I think it is alright for the senior software engineer to postpone the release of the product to some other time because if they release the product too early with bugs, it might decrease their sales.

25. Evaluate the four scenarios presented in section 2.1 from an act utilitarian perspective.

Scenario 1: From an act utilitarian perspective, I think it was alright because she acted according to what she really needed which is to find a way to study and get a high mark.

Scenario 2: I think there must be some other way to stop those spammers because with what they did, other computers are also affected.

Scenario 3: I think they did not do anything wrong in this scenario. They were a big help to the country because it stopped the violaters and at the same time they could stop the accidents that might happen there.

Scenario 4: When you promise something, I think we should always comply for it. But in this situation, I think its best if they did not push through the product because it might result for a different information and might cause trouble for the customers.

26. Evaluate the four scenarios presented in Section 2.1 from a rule utilitarian perspective.

Scenario 1: From a rule utilitarian perspective, Alexis’ action is wrong because in accordance to the libraries policy, only students studying from that college is allowed to use the facilities of the school.

Scenario 2: I think the anti-spam organization did not do anything wrong. In a rule utilitarian perspective, what they did was right. They were only doing their duties.

Scenario 3: I think what the FBI did was also right because their intention is good and it is according to the rules.

Scenario 4: In that case, I think the best solution for this based on the rule utilitarian perspective is not to release the product because as a software engineer you are trained to produce a high quality product.

27. Evaluate the four scenarios presented in Section 2.1 from the perspective of social contract theory.

Scenario 1: There is nothing wrong with complying with the high grade but in terms of using the computer is something which is wrong. If something happened while she is working there, she might be in trouble. She might get caught by the librarian that she is using the property of the school without any permission.

Scenario 2: I think that what they did was wrong because they should not put them under the black listed. It would be biased. They must have a good reason on why they should put them under the black list.

Scenario 3: The FBI did a good job. They caught the terrorists that can harm those innocent people in their country.

Scenario 4: I proposed that they should not present it to the company. They should fix them first before giving it to them.

28. A college student attached a webcam to his laptop computer and left the computer running in his dormitory room in order to broadcast video images of his roommate and his roommate’s girlfriend engaged in sexual intercourse. They were unaware of his actions. The student’s website accumulated thousands of hits for the two weeks it was up. Copies of some images were posted on at least one other web site. Using each of the four workable ethical theories presented in this chapter, evaluate the actions of the college student.

I think what the college student was immoral because it is a private thing. He does not have any right to do that. That college student is not thinking what might the consequences of his actions are. As for his roommate, he will be affected because of what he did. The college student is so selfish that what he did not know is that his roommate is faced with the difficulties.

29. If everyone agreed to take the ethical point of view by respecting each other and their core values, would there be any need for a rigorous study of ethics.

By having an agreement to take the ethical point of view by respecting each other and their values, there is no need for them a rigorous study of ethics because by that time I think they already understand what the meaning of ethics is and differentiate with what is right and what is right with their actions. Thus, it will result to a peaceful and equal nation.

30. If you had to choose only one of the ethical theories presented in this chapter and use it for all of your personal ethical decision-making, which theory would you choose? Why? How would you respond to the arguments raised against the theory you have chosen?

The theory that I would choose is the divine command theory because I believe that good actions are aligned with God and the bad actions are not. I chose this because I think this is the best way to show God how thankful I am for his love. This is also the only way to show him how blessed I am today. Without him, I would not be in this world right now. This is all I can offer for him at this moment.

31. Most ethical theories agree on a large number of moral guidelines. For example, it is universally held that it is wrong to steal. What difference, then does it make whether someone subscribe to the divine command theory, Kantianism. Utilitarianism or one of the other ethical theories?

I think the difference is that when you personally apply it. As long as you know what you are doing is correct then I think there is nothing wrong with it. There are ethical theories that when you analyze it there is something more that you can get. You will realize that that somethings has a negative and bad effect. Therefore, I conclude that the moral codes we are learning, we are not really following them.

32. Suppose a spaceship lands in your neighbourhood. Friendly aliens emerge and invite humans to enter the galactic community. You learn that this race of aliens has colonialized virtually the entire galaxy; Earth is one of the few inhabitable planets to host a different intelligent species. The aliens seem to be remarkably open-minded. They ask you to outline the ethical theory that should guide the interactions between our two species. Which ethical theory would you describe?

For me, I would choose the rule utilitarianism because it tells us that an act can be considered as a good or bad depending on how others respond to it, if they received happiness and benefited from it or if they were harmed from it. With this, the interaction between the aliens and the humans will be peaceful because they will understand one another. They will also know what is wrong and what is right with what they do.

33. According to the golden rule, you should do unto others what you would want to do unto you. Is the categorial imperative simply the golden rule in disguise?

Yes, the categorial imperative states that if you want others to do something good to you then you should do good for them. Otherwise, do something which is not good for them. But I don’t think anyone would want that. Everyone wants to have a good relationship with one another so we must respect each other in order to obtain that.

34. Are there any ethical theories described in this chapter that would allow someone to use the argument “Everybody is doing it” to show that an activity is not wrong?

I think there is no ethical theory that would allow someone to use the argument “Everybody is doing it” to show that an activity is not wrong. I believe that all the ethical theories in this book are showing that that activity is wrong. I think it is because the ethical theories inside this book are all suggesting good intentions in all the actions.

35. What are some examples of contemporary information technology issues for which our society’s moral guidelines seem to be nonexistent or unclear?

Examples of contemporary information technology issues for our society are invasion of privacy, piracy and plagiarism issues. I don’t this will be easily be resolve. Privacy is not something that can be prevented. But piracy and plagiarism can be prevented easily. Now, we have such laws to protect these issues and help them to resolve.

36. People give a variety of reasons for copying a music CD from a friend instead of buying it. Refute each of the reasons given below using one of the visible theories described in this chapter.

1. I don’t have enough money to buy it.

If you want to buy that CD, you could save some money and wait for a sale.

1. The retail price is too high. The company is gouging customers.

You could wait for the CD to have some sale.

1. Since I wouldn’t have bought it anyway, the company didn’t lose a sale.

You would know that the CD is worth it if you buy it and listened to it.

1. I’m giving my friend the opportunity to do a good deed.

If your intention is good then it is alright but if you want to take that opportunity and you just want to show him/her that you are a true friend then forget it. You are just lying on yourself.

1. Everyone else is doing it. Why should I be the only person to buy it when everyone else is getting it for free?

I think it depends on your conscience. Doing a good thing will set you free.

1. This is a drop in the bucket compared to Chinese pirates who sell billions of dollars’ worth of copied music.

We should not be copying it.

1. This is insignificant compared to the billions of dollars’ worth of music being exchanged over the net.

Just start on doing what is right and nevermind those that are bad.

38. Should moral guidelines for individuals apply to nation-states as well? Are the interactions of nation-states analogous to the interactions of individuals? Should there be a different kind of morality to guide the actions of nation-states, or are the actions of nation-states with each other outside the moral realm?

Yes, there should be moral guidelines for individuals in nation-states. Some interactions of nation-state are analogous to the interactions of individuals. I think what the nation-states have right now is enough in terms of the kind of morality to guide the actions of the people. I can see that the people there are well formed according to their own preferred kind of morality.

39. Are the citizens of a representative democracy morally responsible for the action of their government?

I think they are responsible for the action of their government because they were the ones who voted for them at that first place. They should not judge those government officials. They must help their government officials for the better of the society. This will promote a peaceful and a nation with equal rights. For the government officials, I think they should be a good role model for the people because the people might do the same thing.

40. Students in a history class are asked to take a quiz posted on the course website. The instructor has explained the following rules to the students: First, they are supposed to do their own work. Second, they are free to consult their lecture notes and the textbook while taking a quiz. Third, in order to get credit for the quiz, they must correctly answer at least 80 percent of the questions. If they do not get a score of 80 percent, they may retake the quiz as many times as they wish. Mary and John are both taking the quiz. They are sitting next to each other in the computer room. John asks Mary for help in answering one of the questions. He says, “What’s the difference if you tell me the answer. I look it up on the book, or I found out from the computer that my answer is wrong and retake the quiz? In any case, I’ll end up getting credits for the right answer.” Mary tells John the correct answer to the question. Discuss the morality of Mary’s decision.

I think what Mary did was wrong because I think all of the answers are already in their lecture notes and textbooks. There is also rules that their instructor had said to them. What Mary could do is to maybe give a hint to John. They were supposed to do their work on their own but Mary did not not understand what is right and what is wrong. She should not be fooled by anyone else.

42. Is the right to life a negative right or a positive right? In other words, when we say someone has the right to life, are we simply saying we have an obligation not to harm that person, or are we saying we have an obligation to provide the person what he or she needs in order to live, such as food and shelter?

The right of life is a positive right because we are all created equally of God. We are ordered by him to respect one another, love one another and care for one another. We are all given a chance to live according to his will. So we should not waste our right to life. Not all in this world are given a chance to live and be happy. I think if you have a family, you are obliged to do that.

43. Which of the following rights should be considered legitimate positive rights by our society?

1. The right to K-12 education
2. The right to a higher education
3. The right to housing
4. The right to health care
5. The right of a presidential candidate to receive time on television

I think the right that should be considered legitimate positive right by our society is the K-12 education because it is in our education that we know things. This is were we learn the basics like writing and reading. With this, I think it will increase and add additional knowleges. This is our foundation of everything.