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PHI 2000 Introduction to Ethics Unit 3 Milestone Sophia Course

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1

Karl receives a call from the local police, who are concerned that his son may be growing and distributing an illegal (but not dangerous) drug. Karl knows this suspicion to be true. If he admits it to the police, his son will be arrested, and their family's name will be tarnished. If he lies, the police will assume the tip they got was false and go away.

Most people are split on this issue. How might it be evaluated by a utilitarian?



Karl's lying is morally right because he has an obligation to protect his son, even if his son's actions cause harm to others.



Karl's lying is morally wrong because his obligation to the state is more important than his son staying out of trouble, even though it would bring about no benefit for the state.



Karl's lying is morally right because keeping his son out of trouble and his family's reputation clear will bring about more happiness than if his son is arrested.



Karl's lying is morally wrong because it is sinful to lie, even when the consequences are less than desirable.

CONCEPT

Applying Utilitarianism

2

Which of the following represents rule utilitarianism?



Renee is honest with her doctor because she wants a correct diagnosis.



Rick helps his daughter with her taxes because he thinks parents should help their children.



Rhonda drinks tea instead of coffee because she finds it more soothing.



Raj buys a particular brand of computer because it best suits his professional needs.

CONCEPT

Act and Rule Utilitarianism

3

Which of the following represents a potential problem for Kantian deontology?



A person in one place is subject to different rules than a person elsewhere.



A person can treat other people as means to an end without respect for them.



A person who feels at ease with his or her actions can make them right.



A person who tries and fails to murder someone is just as guilty as someone who succeeds.

CONCEPT

Problems with Kantian Deontology

4

How would a Kantian deontologist evaluate an action?



By evaluating the relevant maxim



By evaluating the act's morality



By evaluating the categorical imperative



By evaluating the total good and total bad it brings about

CONCEPT

The Formulation of Universal Law

5

Which of the following considerations is important for a utilitarian when evaluating the morality of an action?



How likely it is to advance one's own needs



How likely it is to bring about happiness



How likely it is to make one a good person



How likely it is to be a violation of God's law

CONCEPT

Utilitarianism

6

How might a Kantian deontologist evaluate assisted suicide?



It is morally right because it puts a person out of his or her pain.



It is morally wrong because it deprives a person of his or her humanity.



It is morally right because the patient gives his or her consent.



It is morally wrong because too many people would do it if they could.

CONCEPT

Applying Kantian Deontology

7

Which of the following people would likely be satisfied with utilitarianism?



Walburga is looking for an ethical framework that is based in observable facts.



Walt is looking for an ethical framework that places a high value on his culture's traditions.



Warren is looking for an ethical framework that never allows any kind of theft.



Wendy is looking for an ethical framework that relies on the Torah for moral guidance.

CONCEPT

Support for Utilitarianism

8

Which statement about Kantian deontology is true?



It is an objectivist theory because ethics must be determined by pure reason and apply to all persons.



It is a relativist theory because it focuses on character rather than on actions.



It is a relativist theory because a commitment to the happiness of the individual ensures happiness for all.



It is an objectivist theory because it uses consequences to evaluate actions for all people.

CONCEPT

Kantian Deontology

9

According to Kantian deontology, which of the following would make an act impermissible?



My own needs are not met.



My intention is bad.



The act is illegal.



There is a negative outcome.

CONCEPT

Commitments of Kantian Deontology

10

Jimmy is a nurse who cares for the aging Mr. Buckner in New York City. Mr. Buckner is a very wealthy man who has saved a lot of money over the years. One day, Mr. Buckner takes Jimmy aside and tells him that he has decided what to do with his money after he dies. Mr. Buckner tells Jimmy that he wants Jimmy to give all of the money to the New York Knicks basketball team. He makes Jimmy promise three times that he will do this. Jimmy thinks Mr. Buckner has gone crazy, but Mr. Buckner dies before they can discuss it further.

Which action is supported by utilitarianism but intuitively seems unethical?



Jimmy decides to keep Mr. Buckner's fortune for himself, as payment for all his work.



Jimmy breaks his promise to Mr. Buckner and uses the money to pay for an operation his mother needs.



Jimmy does what he promised and gives Mr. Buckner's fortune to the New York Knicks.



Jimmy breaks his promise to Mr. Buckner and instead donates the money to a basketball league that helps inner city youth.

CONCEPT

Advantages and Shortcomings of Utilitarianism

11

Which of the following people would likely be satisfied with Kantian deontology?



Gosia is looking for an ethical framework that is based in a society's laws and rules.



Gerard is looking for an ethical framework that can apply to everyone.



Gina is looking for an ethical framework that is conscious of an act's negative effects.



Gary is looking for an ethical framework that originates outside humanity.

CONCEPT

Support for Kantian Deontology

12

I come home and my apartment building is on fire. There is a family of five living in the apartment next to mine and only my mother in my apartment. I can only evacuate one apartment.

What is a problem with applying utilitarianism to this scenario?



Utilitarianism says I cannot determine which apartment to evacuate because my mother's happiness is equal to the happiness of the five strangers.



Utilitarianism says I have to choose what to do based on who is responsible for starting the fire.



Utilitarianism says I should evacuate the apartment that has five occupants, even though my mother is more important to me.



Utilitarianism says I should evacuate my apartment because that will make me the happiest.

CONCEPT

Problems with Utilitarianism

13

Which of the following pairs of goods are probably different in kind according to idealist utilitarianism?



My life and the life of my children



A polio vaccine and a syringe



All of the answer choices are correct.



A dog and a cat

CONCEPT

Hedonic and Idealist Utilitarianism

14

According to Kant, which of the following violates a person's humanity?



Hurting someone's feelings



Disrespecting someone's wishes



Forcing someone to do something



Debating with someone

CONCEPT

The Formulation of Humanity

15

Ingrid steals from a wealthy neighbor's excess so she can afford shoes for her children.

How would a utilitarian classify this action?



Neutral



Supererogatory



Impermissible



Obligatory

CONCEPT

Commitments of Utilitarianism

1

I come home and my apartment building is on fire. There is a family of five living in the apartment next to mine and only my mother in my apartment. I can only evacuate one apartment.

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CONCEPT

Problems with Utilitarianism

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CONCEPT

Commitments of Utilitarianism

3

Which of the following people would likely be satisfied with utilitarianism?



Warren is looking for an ethical framework that never allows any kind of theft.



Walt is looking for an ethical framework that places a high value on his culture's traditions.



Walburga is looking for an ethical framework that is based in observable facts.



Wendy is looking for an ethical framework that relies on the Torah for moral guidance.

CONCEPT

Support for Utilitarianism

4

Which of the following people would likely be satisfied with Kantian deontology?



Frannie is looking for an ethical framework that can evaluate actions beyond just their effects.



Felicity is looking for an ethical framework that is based on accepted societal norms.



Ford is looking for an ethical framework where he can look out for his own wants and needs.



Ferdinand is looking for an ethical framework that uses the Bible as a basis for morality.

CONCEPT

Support for Kantian Deontology

5

Emma isn't sure how she's going to continue providing for her family. In a moment of desperation, she steals a bag of groceries from the store.

Many people would say that stealing is wrong. How might this action be evaluated by a utilitarian?



Emma's action is morally right because Emma has an obligation to feed her family, even if it results in multiple employees getting laid off.



Emma's action is morally wrong because the food she steals may not be enough to feed her family for more than a couple days.



Emma's action is morally right because the overall happiness it brings her family is greater than the decrease in happiness it brings the store.



Emma's action is morally wrong because stealing is wrong, no matter how desperately she needs the food.

CONCEPT

Applying Utilitarianism

6

Which of the following pairs of goods are probably different in kind according to idealist utilitarianism?



All of the answer choices are correct.



A dog and a cat



My life and the life of my children



A polio vaccine and a syringe

CONCEPT

Hedonic and Idealist Utilitarianism

7

According to Kant, which of the following violates a person's humanity?



Debating with someone



Disrespecting someone's wishes



Hurting someone's feelings



Forcing someone to do something

CONCEPT

The Formulation of Humanity

8

In Kantian deontology, the categorical imperative must be derived from _____.



possible consequences



reason



moral law



duty

CONCEPT

Kantian Deontology

9

My grandmother gives me \$5 and tells me to go to the store to buy her some ice cream. She asks me to promise to get the ice cream, and I agree.

Which action is supported by utilitarianism but intuitively seems unethical?



I see five homeless people on the way to the store and I break the promise to my grandmother to give each of them one of the dollars.



I'm not in the mood for ice cream, so I spend the money on cupcakes instead because I know my grandmother likes them, too.



Even though they have my grandmother's favorite flavor at the grocery store, I buy a flavor that she doesn't like as much.



On the way to the store, I run into my friends who are going to see a movie; I decide to go with them and get the ice cream later.

CONCEPT

Advantages and Shortcomings of Utilitarianism

10

According to Kantian deontology, which of the following would make an act permissible?



It is done with good intent.



It is approved by a majority of people.



It brings about the greatest good for the most people.



It is legal in this place.

CONCEPT

Commitments of Kantian Deontology

11

How would a Kantian deontologist evaluate an action?



By evaluating the act's morality



By evaluating the categorical imperative



By evaluating the total good and total bad it brings about



By evaluating the relevant maxim

CONCEPT

The Formulation of Universal Law

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How might a Kantian deontologist evaluate assisted suicide?



It is morally wrong because it deprives a person of his or her humanity.



It is morally right because it puts a person out of his or her pain.



It is morally wrong because too many people would do it if they could.



It is morally right because the patient gives his or her consent.

CONCEPT

Applying Kantian Deontology

13

Which of the following represents a potential problem for Kantian deontology?



A person may have to follow different rules than others because of his or her circumstances.



A person who isn't aware of committing a crime can't be guilty of it.



A person's intentions aren't given enough consideration.



A person can treat other people as means to an end without respect for them.

CONCEPT

Problems with Kantian Deontology

14

Which of the following represents rule utilitarianism?



Oswald gives 10% of his income to charity because giving to charity generally brings about greater good.



Odessa saves a drowning man because she knows his family needs him in order to be happy.



Omar breaks into a large store because he needs food and the store's loss will be insignificant.



Opal grows lots of plants and flowers to help offset her carbon footprint.

CONCEPT

Act and Rule Utilitarianism

15

When a utilitarian evaluates an action, which of the following is most important?



The action's rejection by society



The action's inherent sinfulness



The action's effects on the agent



The action's total effects on everyone

What is meant by the formulation of universal law?



Acting according to a maxim that brings about the greatest possible good



Acting according to a maxim that is defined by the global community



Acting according to a maxim that respects an act's inherent goodness



Acting according to a maxim that, if applied to everyone, does not entail contradiction

How might a Kantian deontologist evaluate cheating on an assignment?



It is morally right because it can prevent you from failing a class, losing the tuition, and getting in trouble with your parents.



It is morally wrong because lying to the teacher deprives her of information she needs.



It is morally right because it doesn't violate your freedom or ability to reason.



It is morally wrong because it violates the humanity of the person you cheated off of.

In Kantian deontology, the _____ must be derived from reason.



categorical imperative



command theory



utility principle



formal maxim

Theo is running for political office. It is a well-known fact that Theo is corrupt—he intends to use his office for his own personal and financial gain, to the detriment of the communities he serves. Yet polls show that he has a considerable lead over his opponents because he can afford aggressive advertising. A group of citizens decides to take matters into its own hands by blackmailing Theo so he will drop out of the election.

Most people would agree that this action is immoral. How might it be evaluated by a utilitarian?



Blackmailing Theo is morally right because the communities he serves will ultimately be happier with a leader who is not corrupt.



Blackmailing Theo is morally right because most citizens do not want him as their leader, even if they have fallen for his advertising.



Blackmailing Theo is morally wrong because it's still possible that he won't win the election, or that checks and balances will keep him from having too negative an impact.



Blackmailing Theo is morally wrong because blackmail is always wrong, even if you don't agree with someone's values.

What is meant by the formulation of humanity?



We should respect other peoples' points of view.



Anything agreed on by all humanity is true.



Other people must be treated as ends, not only as means.



We shouldn't act in a way that has any harm to society.

According to Kantian deontology, which of the following would make an act impermissible?



It doesn't meet my own needs.



It violates applicable regulations.



It is done with bad intent.



Most people find it morally bad.

Which of the following pairs of goods are directly comparable according to hedonic utilitarianism?



A car and a motorcycle



All of the answer choices are correct.



\$20 and a sandwich platter



My life and my wife's life

I try to hurt my roommate by hitting him in the back, but I actually help his chronic back pain instead.

What problem with utilitarianism does this situation demonstrate?



An agent is equally responsible for actions he chooses to take or not take.



The intent of an action determines the morality of the action.



Utilitarianism is committed to treating everyone's happiness equally.



Intent isn't a factor for the utilitarian, so this action is good, even though I meant to cause harm.

Jerome gets injured helping a distressed swimmer. Jerome dies, but the swimmer lives.

How would a utilitarian classify Jerome's action?



Supererogatory



Impermissible



Obligatory



Neutral

Which of the following people would likely be satisfied with Kantian deontology?



Hank is looking for an ethical system that will put him most ahead.



Henrietta is looking for an ethical system that weighs the odds of certain consequences.



Houghton is looking for an ethical system that is relative.



Helen is looking for an ethical framework that respects the freedom of others.

Which of the following people would likely be satisfied with utilitarianism?



Zoe is looking for an ethical framework that makes sure she is always happy.



Zach is looking for an ethical framework that applies evenly to everyone.



Zephaniah is looking for an ethical framework that fits well with religious belief.



Zelie is looking for an ethical framework that says animal cruelty is always wrong.

When a utilitarian evaluates an action, which of the following is most important?



The action's total effects on everyone



The action's effects on the agent



The action's rejection by society



The action's inherent sinfulness

On which of the following statements would a hedonic utilitarian and an idealist utilitarian disagree?



Some goods are preferable to others.



Some goods can be compared.



Consequences are the only important consideration.



Some goods can't be directly compared.

Which of the following represents a potential problem for Kantian deontology?



A person can get away with doing harm if he or she isn't caught.



A person can justify any action based on its consequences.



A person can't use feelings to help guide his or her reasoning.



A person can get away with doing harm if it's culturally accepted.

Claire is helping her elderly neighbor, Ms. Flannigan, with some yard work. Ms. Flannigan has no close family and tells Claire that she is beginning to wonder who will get the small bundles of cash she has hidden throughout her large house. Ms. Flannigan even remarks that she cannot remember where she has hidden them all. After helping Ms. Flannigan, Claire goes inside to freshen up. In the bathroom she notices a large wad of cash tucked inside the medicine cabinet.

Which action is supported by utilitarianism but intuitively seems unethical?



Claire takes the money and donates it to the food kitchen that feeds the community's homeless population.



Claire leaves the money, and tells Ms. Flannigan that she will take her to the bank the following week to deposit it.



Claire leaves the money, but tells her friends about Mrs. Flannigan's forgetfulness and where she had found the money.



Claire takes the money and puts it in a savings account that she will not touch for 10 years.

For Kant, what makes someone human?



The government's recognition of personhood



The ability to have emotions and feel pain



Freedom and the ability to reason



A person's genetic code

Which of the following represents act utilitarianism?



Pierre bikes to work because he believes in not wasting gas.



Penelope works because she needs money for rent and food.



Patty looks out for her family because she believes it's her duty.



Percy rescues a stranger from a burning car because he would do that for anyone.

I can change the lives of three foster children by adopting them and giving them a safe and stable home. If I adopt them, I must ask my 18-year-old son to move out because there isn't enough room in the house for everyone.

What is a problem with applying utilitarianism to this scenario?



Utilitarianism says I cannot adopt the foster children because my son's happiness is equal to theirs.



Utilitarianism says I have to make my decision based on finding another home for my son.



Utilitarianism says I should adopt the three foster children, even though my son still relies on me for food and shelter.



Utilitarianism says I should adopt the foster children because that will make me the happiest.

Why is utilitarianism an objectivist or relativist theory?



Utilitarianism is objectivist because although people might act in different ways, they all have one goal: to maximize utility.



Utilitarianism is objectivist because all people should consider their own happiness first.



Utilitarianism is relative because the good is proportionate to the individual's intention.



Utilitarianism is relative because what is best for the individual may differ from societal norms.

Which of the following people would likely be satisfied with utilitarianism?



Abner is looking for an ethical framework that allows for cultural differences in morality.



Athena is looking for an ethical framework that helps her look out for her own needs.



Andrew is looking for an ethical framework that does not allow blood transfusion.



Adelaide is looking for an ethical framework that takes future generations into consideration.

Which of the following represents a potential problem for Kantian deontology?



A person can treat other people as means to an end without respect for them.



A person who tries and fails to murder someone is just as guilty as someone who succeeds.



A person who feels at ease with his or her actions can make them right.



A person in one place is subject to different rules than a person elsewhere.

Henry vandalizes a local school on a friendly dare.

How would a utilitarian classify this action?



Impermissible



Obligatory



Supererogatory



Neutral