

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

ETHICS PHL125/E

Supplementary EXAMINATIONS
January 2019

This paper consists of 13 pages including the cover page
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Time: 3 hours
Subject: INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS
Marks: 100

Internal Examiners

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External ExaminersINSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer ALL the Questions.
2. Please answer the questions directly on the question paper.
3. Write your name on the question paper (where the space is indicated on the second page).

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS. Complete them ON THE EXAMINATION PAPER.

Student Surname: _____

Student First Name: _____

Student Number: _____

PART 1 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (10 MARKS)

Answer ALL questions. Write the question number and answer (a or b or c or d) in the space provided below.

1. Prescriptivism is a meta-ethical view claiming:

- a) moral statements express emotional attitudes.
- b) moral statements are descriptive.
- c) moral statements are truth-apt.
- d) moral statements express commands.

2. According to R. Benedict (Patterns of Culture) 'good' is:

- a) what a group expects to be fitting behavior.
- b) is only sometimes objective.
- c) an objective.
- d) is what is formulated independent of a group's behaviour.

3. Plato's four main virtues (excellences) are:

- a) prudence, justice, temperance, courage.
- b) energy, dynamics, strength, potentiality.
- c) rationality, emotions, higher affections, imagination.
- d) doubt, misunderstanding, confusion and silence.

4. According to Kant, humans are capable of moral acts:

- a) by developing their good habits.
- b) because they are rational and they can act out of good will.
- c) by thinking of the greatest amount of pleasure for the greatest amount of people.
- d) by developing their moral character.

5. A utilitarian would say:

- a) the end should never justify the means.
- b) the end does justify the means.

- c) morality is based on rationality.
- d) there is no such thing as morality.

6. A good character, according to Gyekye, is

- a) Acquired through developing good habits
- b) Can be informed through community folklore
- c) The responsibility of each individual
- d) All of the above

7. African ideas of personhood imply that the original nature of the human being is:

- Morally Neutral
- Inherently Good
- Inherently evil
- The same as that of being 'a person'

8. Which of the following is NOT a description of *Ubuntu*?

- a) the absence of pain and the presence of pleasure or happiness
- b) My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up in yours.
- c) Humanness.
- d) A person is a person through other persons.

9. Ramose argues that Ecology through Ubuntu

- a) Suggests an interdependence between people and their natural environment
- b) Justifies priority being given to humans over animals
- c) Suggests that we should prioritise human development over protection of the environment
- d) None of the above

10. Which of the following are possible critiques of Ubuntu?

- a) It focuses too much on the consequences
- b) The focus on the community can lead to individuals or minorities being marginalised
- c) It essentialises what it means to be African
- d) Both b and c.

Write your answer here with reference to the correct symbol:

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3. Describe Aristotle's conception of 'eudaimonia' (Greek for flourishing, well-being, happiness) (5 marks)

4. Gyekye argues that African ethics is character based. List four features of character on his view (4 marks)

5. Ramose emphasises that Ubuntu ought to be translated as 'Humanness', not 'humanism'. What is this distinction and why does he make it? (6 marks)

6. Name one similarity between Gyekye's account of African ethics and Aristotle's virtue ethics. (2 marks)

7. What does Kant understand by perfect and imperfect duties? (4 marks)

8. If you saw your neighbour's house was on fire, and you rushed over to help out of sympathy, what would Kant say about the moral worth of your act? (4 marks)

9. Give an outline of classical (act) utilitarianism in three steps (3 marks)

10. What do utilitarians say is more important than rationality for moral consideration. Explain their argument and give an example (5 marks)

11. Explain the difference between deontology and rule utilitarianism. (4 marks)

12. What does Ubuntu as a moral principle say about our relationship to the environment?
(5 marks)

PART3: LONG QUESTIONS (20 MARKS)

Answer ALL questions. For each question, your answer should be at least half a handwritten page.

1. Drawing on one of the ethical theories we have discussed in this course, discuss whether you think it is appropriate to make a moral judgement on individuals' private sexual activities (e.g. homosexuality, blesser-blessee relationship, the use of pornography) (10 marks).

2. Do you think it is morally wrong to have children, considering the problem of global overpopulation (7.7 billion people)? Structure your answer under the following headings: a) How would different ethical theories respond to this question? b) What insights and/or solutions would they provide if they did not consider it morally wrong? (10 marks)

PART 4: ESSAY QUESTION (20 marks)

Your answer should be at least one handwritten page.

Which moral theory (African communitarianism, virtue ethics, deontology or utilitarianism) is closest to your own way of moral reasoning? In your answer, (a) summarise and compare the basic principles of any two of the above-mentioned four traditions; (b) provide arguments as to why you think the approach you support is preferable; and (c) provide relevant examples from your own experience. (20 marks)

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(extra writing space)