College Ethics A Reader on Moral Issues that Affect You 2nd edition Fischer Test Bank

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Sex and Relationships

John Corvino, "We Shouldn't Even be Having this Discussion"

Essay Questions

Could it ever be wrong to have a moral debate? That is, could it ever be *so* clear that something is morally okay (or morally wrong) that we shouldn't even discuss it anymore? If so, can you give some examples? What do they have in common? Why are topics like these off the table? And if you think it's *always* fine to have a moral debate, why do you think that? What's John Corvino's view here, and what do you think about it?

A good essay will:

- Include a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Clearly and succinctly state the main argument for the thesis.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.
- Explain Corvino's position on whether "obvious" moral truths should be up for debate and respond to his position.

In his essay, John Corvino discusses the importance of assessing something's merits and faults in an informed way. That's why his essay contains a number of personal anecdotes. In your essay, explain Corvino's defense of first-person accounts in some ethical debates. Then respond to the following, "Are there any cases where first-person accounts would make it *harder* to make an ethical assessment?" If so, offer an example and explain the risk. If not, explain why first-person accounts are always important.

A good essay will:

- Recreate and explain Corvino's position in favor of offering first-person accounts in the context of the homosexuality debate.
- Either argue that there are at least some moral arguments where first-person accounts are unnecessary for coming to a conclusion on the subject, explaining at least one example.

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– Or, argue that there aren't any moral arguments where it's unimportant to learn from first-person accounts when making a moral assessment.

In the section, "Why Argue?," John Corvino discusses the way that he thinks about morality. In your essay, explain what he means when he uses the word "morality." Then, offer an argument in favor of, or against, this way of talking about morality.

A good essay will:

– Reproduce and explain Corvino's description of the term "morality."
– Either argue that this is the right way to think about morality and ethics.
– Or, argue that this is a flawed way of thinking about morality and ethics.

Quiz Questions

1) What does Corvino say about his relationship to Glenn Stanton, an evangelical Christian and defender of the religious right?
   a) They are professional rivals
   b) They are enemies
   c) They are friends
   d) They are married
   e) None of the above

2) *Corvino offers a description of the term "morality." Which of the following does NOT fit Corvino's description?
   a) Morality is quintessentially a matter for public concern
   b) Morality is about how we treat each other
   c) Morality is about the kind of society we want to be
   d) Morality is essentially a private matter
   e) None of the above

3) * Corvino affirms that there is no relationship between morality and the law.

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a) True

b) False

4) Corvino believes that the claim that "we ought not judge one another" is misguided. Which of the following is NOT one of his reasons why?

a) It is politically misguided because prosecution requires judgment

b) It is rhetorically misguided because it makes liberals seem as if they have conceded "moral values" to the other side

c) It is morally misguided because the moral tone of society is everyone's responsibility

d) It is logically misguided because it is self-refuting

e) None of the above

5) * Which of the following explains how Corvino thinks about gay people's ability to make arguments on homosexuality?

a) No one should be having moral arguments about this discussion at all

b) Only gay people can speak with authority on homosexuality; they know it firsthand

c) Some gay people can be trusted to put bias aside when making arguments, but not all

d) One's sexual orientation doesn't affect the soundness of that person's arguments

e) Gay people can't be trusted to assess their own experience

6) * Which of the following is Corvino's positive case for homosexuality?

a) Same-sex relationships are a human universal

b) Same-sex relationships make some people happy

c) Same-sex individuals are morally good people

d) Same-sex relationships are necessary for a healthy society

e) Same-sex individuals make positive contributions to society

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7) What does Corvino have to say about the role of sex in relationships?
    a) Sex is pleasurable, and pleasure is the source of *all* value, including the moral value of relationships
    b) Physical intimacy is *always* connected to other forms of intimacy
    c) Sex, whether it is had in the context of homosexual or heterosexual relationships, only has moral value in long-term relationships
    d) Sex does not really play an important role in relationships, even romantic ones
    e) **There are good reasons to doubt that one can remove the sexual aspect of relationships and have all others remain the same**

8) What does Corvino have to say about the question, "Where does morality come from?"
    a) The question is ambiguous
    b) The question must be answered to resolve the homosexuality debate
    c) The question has an obvious answer
    d) The question is nonsensical
    e) None of the above

9) * Corvino argues that there is a straightforward and simple way of explaining where moral truth comes from.
    a) True
    b) False

10) Corvino suggests that there are moral arguments that should not be dignified with a response.
    a) True
    b) False

Media Links

Conversation Stoppers
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9D6IDPaR70

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Where Does Morality Come From?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_iQT-vs_X4&list=PLsolewfmUXE9fkKyw1PQN9UWe4K16zF2c&index=4

Loving My (LGBT) Neighbor (Glenn Stanton)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H572QLqz9S8

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Nicole Dular, "The Ethics of Ghosting"

Essay Questions

Nicole Dular talks about men's response to women's rejection in dating as one instance of misogyny. In your essay, explain what she means by "misogyny" and identify another example of misogyny in action. Given what Dular thinks about ghosting, what might she say about how women should respond to your example? Be specific, drawing from parts of Dular's essay to address the situation you've identified.

A good essay will:

- Reproduce and explain Dular's definition of the term "misogyny."
- Offer an example that accurately fits this definition of misogyny, and that is not simply another instance of men responding to women's rejection in the context of dating.
- Successfully apply at least one of the concepts that Dular introduces in her essay to the problem that the author has identified in order to show how such a response would combat this instance of misogyny.

Nicole Dular says: "It is morally permissible for someone to take actions that would prevent them from experiencing undeserved harm." In your essay, come up with a case that might pose a problem for this claim. How would the claim need to be qualified to deal with your case? Then, explain how Dular might respond to this objection.

A good essay will:

- Successfully develop and defend an objection to the claim that "It is morally permissible for someone to take actions that would prevent them from experiencing undeserved harm."
- Outline a response to this objection that serves as a defense of Dular's position.

Nicole Dular argues that ghosting as silence can act as a way of blocking misogyny. In your essay, explain what "blocking" means and why Dular argues that it can be a morally

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praiseworthy act. Do you agree that blocking is "crucially important as a response to bigoted speech?" Why or why not? Develop an example that supports your argument.

A good essay will:

- Reproduce and explain Dular's definition of the term "blocking."
- Either argue that blocking is a crucial response to bigoted speech.
- Or, argue that blocking is not a crucial response to bigoted speech.
- Offer an example that helps to illustrate the author's argument.

Quiz Questions

1) *Which of the following best captures Dular's thesis?

a) Ghosting is always morally impermissible
b) Ghosting is always morally permissible
c) Ghosting is permissible when certain conditions are met
d) It is morally permissible for women to ghost men
e) It is morally permissible for men to ghost women

2) * Dular proposes three common responses that men have to women's rejection. Which of the following is NOT one of those responses?

a) Physical violence
b) Guilt Tripping
c) Denigration
d) Argumentation
e) None of the above

3) * Which of the following is the definition of "misogyny" that Dular employs in her essay?

a) Historically, a system of domination where women used to suffer because their rights were restricted
b) The belief set that men are biologically superior to and morally better than women

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c) An idea created by feminists that helps to explain the problems and injustices that women currently experience
d) Dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women
e) A system that functions to uphold male dominance by punishing women who violate patriarchal norm

4) What does "objectification" mean?
a) A person is treated as an object, in the sense that they are viewed as having the same moral status as inanimate entities
b) A person is treated as an object, either in the sense that they can be used to satisfy others' desires or that they have no desires of their own
c) An object is treated as a person, in the sense that it is seen as having equal or greater value than a human being
d) Some object or person is used for the sole purpose of bringing pleasure to the person using that thing or person
e) The expression of something abstract, like sounds or images, in a concrete form

5) When a man demands emotional labor from a woman, this is an example of _____:
a) Denigration
b) Guilt tripping
c) Physical violence
d) Objectification
e) Argumentation

6) Dular argues that ghosting can be seen as a form of what two things?
a) Denigration and objectification
b) Blocking and gaslighting
c) Empowerment and coalition building
d) Self-protection and resistance
e) Empowerment and resistance

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7) * Dular suggests that there is an analogy between ghosting and _____:
   a) Getting a vaccine
   b) Inflicting a wound
   c) Carrying pepper spray
   d) Calling for help
   e) Riding a stolen horse

8) * If someone were to want to engage in the linguistic act of blocking after hearing, "I've named this horse James Bond," which of the following would be an act of blocking?
   a) Simply saying, "No"
   b) Forwarding a logical argument against that claim
   c) Shaking one's head
   d) Asking that the speaker repeat themselves
   e) All of the above

9) Dular argues that there are cases where a speaker's remarks are not even deserving of a response.
   a) True
   b) False

10) Dular argues that in a perfect world, ghosting would be an accepted part of dating relationships.
   a) True
   b) False

Media Links

What Psychologists Can Tell You About Ghosting
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW7rPIf2RBQ

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What is the Deal With Ghosting?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSuOzhUmj7o

Why People Ghost — And How to Get Over It

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/22/smarter-living/why-people-ghost-and-how-to-get-over-it.html

What Does Misogyny Look Like?

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/08/style/misogyny-women-history-photographs.html

Confessions of a Soft Ghoster

https://www.refinery29.com/en-gb/2019/09/8446769/soft-ghosting-dating-trend

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C. E. Abbate, "Racial Preferences in Dating"

Essay Questions

Imagine a case where a Black woman swipes left on the profiles of all white men. What would Abbate say about this way of using a dating app? Be sure to draw from Abbate's essay when defending your argument.

A good essay will:

- Craft and defend a thesis that applies Abbate's moral arguments to the case of Black people refusing to date white people.
- Successfully apply the relevant portions of Abbate's argument, perhaps especially drawing from her explanations of discrimination, *The Equal Inherent Value and Worth Principle*, and the history of interracial relationships.

Abbate says that some instances of discrimination are more wrong than others. Do you agree that it's wrong, even if only a little, to refuse to date people who are unattractive—as she suggests? Why or why not? When defending your position, consider including examples of other preferences that Abbate doesn't consider, such as a refusal to date unintelligent people or wealthy people. What does Abbate's position commit us to when it comes to the ethics of considering romantic partners?

A good essay will:

- Craft and defend a thesis that responds to the claim, "It's wrong to refuse to date unattractive people."
- Likely include an example of discriminating based on other preferences that Abbate doesn't explore in her essay, such as the preference not to date unintelligent or wealthy people.
- Explore what kinds of commitments Abbate's position leads to when it comes to the ethics of dating in general.

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Toward the close of her essay, Abbate says that people may have a right to act viciously or immorally. In your essay, explain what it means to have a right to do the wrong thing. Then, consider how we might encourage virtuous and moral action even in cases where people have the right to act poorly. What kinds of steps can we take to discourage bad actions that people have the right to perform?

A good essay will:

- Explain Abbate's claim that people may have a right to behave immorally, ideally by providing at least one original example.
- Explore how some person or group might encourage moral action on an issue where others have the right—perhaps a legal right—to behave immorally.

Quiz Questions

1) *Abbate argues that if refusing to date people of a certain race is wrong, it cannot be explained by _____:
    a) Appealing to the inherent equality of persons
    b) The fact that interracial marriage used to be illegal
    c) Appealing to the principle of respect
    d) The fact that there are so few interracial relationships
    e) Appealing to negative consequences

2) *What explains the wrongness of racialized dating preferences?
    a) The felt harm of those who are discriminated against
    b) These preferences deny the equal worth of persons
    c) These preferences always foster implicit biases
    d) The experience of superiority by those who discriminate
    e) All of the above

3) *When is drawing a distinction between people wrongful?
    a) When it is a distinction that demeans
    b) When it raises any one group's status

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c) When it is a distinction based on value systems
d) Drawing distinctions between people is always wrongful
e) Drawing distinctions between people is never wrongful

4) Abbate draws the distinction between what two things in the context of dating?
   a) Desires and demands
   b) Desires and standards
   c) Preferences and standards
   d) Preferences and deal breakers
   e) Moral online dating and moral in-person dating

5) Abbate argues that it would be demeaning for a person to refuse to swipe yes on anyone who likes football.
   a) True
   b) False

6) Abbate argues that it is possible to both rule out all potential partners who enjoy hunting and to _____:
   a) Not recognize that you're doing the wrong thing
   b) Dehumanize them in the process
   c) Defend animals' rights in so doing
   d) Recognize their personhood
   e) Believe that hunting is great

7) *Which of the following does constitute wrongful discrimination, on Abbate's view?
   a) Ruling out all unattractive people
   b) Ruling out all vegans
   c) Ruling out all military personnel
   d) Ruling out all football players
   e) Refusing to date anyone at all

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8) Abbate argues that when it comes to weighing the wrongness of refusing to date Black people and refusing to date blond people, we should say what?
    a) Both are morally acceptable
    b) Both are morally neutral, but neither is a great idea
    c) Both are equally wrong
    d) Both are wrong, but refusing to date blond people is worse
    e) Both are wrong, but refusing to date Black people is worse

9) *Abbate suggests that we need to pay particular attention to the history of what when evaluating the practice of drawing race-based distinctions in the dating context?
    a) Slavery in the United States
    b) Interracial relationships in the United States
    c) Medical problems caused by inbreeding
    d) Economic inequalities across racial lines
    e) All of the above

10) Abbate argues that drawing distinctions based on Blackness often expresses that Black people are inferior to whites *even when the speaker didn't intend for his distinction to carry this meaning*.
    a) **True**
    b) False

Media Links

Racism in Online Dating
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bl-2L_olWXs

Does Having a Racial Preference When Dating Make Us Racist?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flXIdlRwEXc

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"Least Desirable"? How Racial Discrimination Plays Out in Online Dating
https://www.npr.org/2018/01/09/575352051/least-desirable-how-racial-discrimination-plays-out-in-online-dating

Is it Racist to Have a Racial Dating Preference?
https://www.rewire.org/love/racist-racial-dating-preference/

Disclosing Racial Preferences in Online Dating
https://www.spsp.org/news-center/blog/thai-barlow-racial-preferences-online-dating

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Laurie Shrage and Robert Stewart, "Sexual Privacy"

Essay Questions

Imagine that your friend starts sending you some sexually explicit pictures of their ex along with some mocking commentary. (This is how your friend is trying to "get over" their ex.) Is it wrong for your friend to do this? Why or why not?

A good essay will:

- Include a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Offer an argument for the thesis that demonstrates an appreciation of the distinctions and moral considerations that Shrage and Stewart discuss.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

You suspect that your roommate is having sex with one of your friends in your dorm room, and you'd like to know whether you're right. Discuss this issue in light of the conventional, "core person," and "differentiating relationships" views of privacy.

A good essay will:

- Correctly explain the conventional, "core person," and "differentiating relationships" views of privacy.
- Offer plausible applications of those views to the ethics of investigating the friend's activities, being sure to distinguish moral concerns that arise from those views and other moral concerns that might be relevant.

In their essay, Laurie Shrage and Robert Stewart look at some issues surrounding privacy after they assume that the differentiating relationships view of privacy best explains the value of privacy. In your essay, start with the assumption that *either* the conventional view of privacy *or* the core person view of privacy is the best explanation of the value of privacy (pick only one of these views). Does this account change what we should say about things like sexting or the punishment of violating sexual privacy? If so, how? If not, why not?

A good essay will:

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- Correctly explain either the conventional view of privacy or the core person view of privacy.
- Offer a defense of the idea that either the conventional view of privacy or the core person view of privacy best explains the value of privacy.
- Describe how, if at all, our understanding of some act like sexting or the prosecution of sexual privacy violations would change should this view of privacy be adopted.

Quiz Questions

1) *Shrage and Stewart say that privacy can take at least three forms. Which of the following is NOT one of those forms?
    a) Control over important life decisions without undue interference from others
    b) Access to digital platforms where we can act anonymously
    c) Control over who has access to sensitive information about us
    d) Access to physical spaces where our activities are not visible to others
    e) None of these is a form of privacy

2) According to Shrage and Stewart, the digital age makes it difficult to protect which two types of privacy?
    a) Informational and physical
    b) Informational and decisional
    c) Decisional and physical
    d) Relational and personal
    e) Decisional and personal

3) *According to the "conventional" view of privacy, privacy is important because:
    a) It enables us to keep our secrets
    b) There are parts of myself that I show only to some of the people with whom I interact
    c) It protects our fundamental identities
    d) It keeps us from being observed or disturbed by other people

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e) It helps us separate kinds of relationships

4) According to the "core person" view of privacy, privacy is important because:
   a) It enables us to keep our secrets
   b) There are parts of myself that I show only to some of the people with whom I interact
   c) It protects our fundamental identities
   d) It keeps us from being observed or disturbed by other people
   e) It helps us separate kinds of relationships

5) *According to the "differentiating relationships" view of privacy, privacy is important because:
   a) It enables us to keep our secrets
   b) There are parts of myself that I show only to some of the people with whom I interact
   c) It protects our fundamental identities
   d) It keeps us from being observed or disturbed by other people
   e) It helps us separate kinds of relationships

6) *According to Shrage and Stewart, which view of privacy best explains the value of privacy?
   a) The conventional view
   b) The core person view
   c) The anti-disturbance view
   d) The differentiating relationships view
   e) The decisional view

7) In the Rehtaeh Parsons case_____:
   a) A person's roommate used a webcam to spy on her
   b) Someone took a photo during a sexual assault

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c) An ex-boyfriend posted nude photos that she had shared with him
d) She pretended to be asleep in order to watch her roommate have sex
e) She set up a two-way mirror in a dressing room

8) Shrage and Stewart argue that one should have a reasonable expectation of privacy with regard to whatever they post on Facebook.
a) True
b) False

9) *Shrage and Stewart claim that we should be free from coercion or interference by others when we make decisions about our nonpublic sexual activities.
a) True
b) False

10) Shrage and Stewart claim that new technologies enhance our ability to protect the forms of privacy we value.
a) True
b) False

Media Links

Today Show: "Teens Prosecuted for Sexting"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yx1MEKkGkK8

Inside the Torturous Fight to End Revenge Porn
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbnorTtJcec

What is Sexual Privacy?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTLYJ0Y41JE

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Conor Kelly, "Sexism in Practice: Feminist Ethics Evaluating the Hookup Culture"

Essay Questions

Conor Kelly is pretty critical of hookup culture. In light of all those criticisms, what's the best defense of hookup culture that you can offer? And how might Kelly respond?

A good essay will:

- Offer a defense of hookup culture that makes a serious attempt to respond to Kelly's concerns about it.
- Accurately summarize, and then apply, Kelly's ideas to the defense just offered. Specifically, the essay should discuss why Kelly thinks that hookup culture undermines the freedom, equality, and safety of women on campus.

Is hookup culture fixable? That is, can you imagine ways to reform hookup culture so that it doesn't have the negative consequences that Conor Kelly discusses? If so, what might those reforms be? If not, what does that imply about hookup culture generally, as well as the people who participate in it?

A good essay will either:

- Demonstrate an understanding of Kelly's worries about hookup culture, and offer some ways of reforming hookup culture where it's plausible that if those reforms were widely adopted, they would address Kelly's worries.
- Or, explain why we should be skeptical of the idea that hookup culture would be reformed (e.g., by arguing that any plausible reform would just produce something other than hookup culture), and then offer focused reasons to take particular stances on both hookup culture generally and those who participate in it.

Conor Kelly is arguing that hookup culture is sexist, by which he means that it systematically disadvantages women. Why, exactly, does he think this? Do you agree that it's sexist? Why or why not? (If you think that it *is* sexist, do you think that Kelly has identified all the ways in which hookup culture systematically disadvantages women?)

A good essay will:

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- Accurately summarize Kelly's definition of sexism and his view about why the four features of hookup culture—namely, lack of commitment, ambiguous language, alcohol use, and social pressure to conform—undermine the freedom, equality, and safety of women on campus.
- Include a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Clearly and succinctly state the argument for the essay's thesis.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

Quiz Questions

1) *According to Kelly, the primary thing that men and women seek to avoid in the hookup culture is:
   a) A long-term relationship
   b) Love
   c) Sex
   d) Friendship
   e) Developing fully autonomous selves

2) Kelly discusses the idea that that the hookup culture is a reversal of the dating script. The idea here is that _____:
   a) **Things used to evolve from emotional to physical; they now go the other way**
   b) College students used to be interested in dating, but they now regard dating as passé
   c) Dating is slowly replacing the hookup culture, decreasing the prevalence of hookup culture on campuses
   d) Hookup culture reverses the emphasis on sex that was so important to the dating scene
   e) Dating used to be scripted and measured, now it's a veritable free for all

3) *When Kelly complains that the term "hookup" is ambiguous, what is he saying?

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a) That we don't have a workable definition of "hookup"
b) That the term "hookup" doesn't tell you what people are actually doing together
c) That it isn't clear how to distinguish "hookups" from "one night stands"
d) That hookups have made it hard to tell when people are in relationships
e) All of the above

4) Kelly says that the freedom people feel within hookup culture is an illusion. Why is this?
a) No one is free to avoid the system altogether
b) You can't hookup with just anyone
c) Hookup culture involves a lot of alcohol, and you aren't in control when you're drinking
d) Parents and administrators are secretly in favor of hookup culture
e) Hookup culture prevents us from realizing our true selves

5) *Kelly criticizes the idea that hookup culture promotes independence. On that view, hookup culture promotes independence because _____:
a) It's an improvement over earlier systems where parents arranged dating relationships
b) It allows people to have sex with as many different partners as they'd like
c) It gives people the skills they'll need to be successful in life
d) It allows people to have sex without commitment
e) It's a system where men can be sexually liberated

6) Kelly is concerned about people trying to separate emotions from sex. Why is this?
a) He argues that sex is better when it's emotionally meaningful
b) He thinks that keeping those things connected is crucial for developing virtue
c) He knows that scientific research has proven it's impossible
d) He doubts that it's possible to separate those things
e) He doubts that we can separate those things without harming our ability to have long-term relationships

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7) *Kelly worries women are at a greater risk of rape and sexual assault due to _____:
    a) The influence of sorority culture on campuses
    b) Alcohol consumption
    c) Pressure to decompress in a demanding academic environment
    d) Understaffed campus police forces
    e) Walking around late after partying

8) Kelly claims that women who want to hook up *without having sex* face particularly high risks. Why is this?
    a) Very few people will want to hook up with a person who isn't interested in going "all the way"
    b) When women say that they aren't interested in having sex, they are permanently branded as "prudes"
    c) Some men feel entitled to have sex once a physical encounter has begun
    d) They will have begun the hook up in a private place where it's hard to get help if they need it
    e) Women who didn't plan to have sex are less likely to use contraception in the event that they do decide to have sex

9) *According to Kelly, most men are interested in hooking up with known "sluts," which makes women willing to take on labels that they wouldn't otherwise want.
    a) True
    b) False

10) According to Kelly, hookup culture itself isn't sexist, but the men who participate in it are.
    a) True
    b) False

Media Links

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Hookup Culture: The Unspoken Rules of Sex on College Campuses

https://www.npr.org/2017/02/14/514578429/hookup-culture-the-unspoken-rules-of-sex-on-college-campuses

Boys on the Side

https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/09/boys-on-the-side/309062/

The Faults in our Feminism

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmpFJ_ZTOWE

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Katie Roiphe, "Date Rape's Other Victim"

Essay Questions

How would Roiphe summarize the disagreement between her mother's feminism and "rape-crisis" feminism? If you were a "rape-crisis" feminist, what would you say about Roiphe's summary? Is it fair? Why or why not?

A good essay will:

- Accurately summarize Roiphe's position, which is that her mother's feminism empowers women whereas "rape-crisis" feminism disempowers them, since the latter involves "the denial of female sexual agency."
- Attempt a reply to this charge on behalf of "rape-crisis" feminism—e.g., that these feminists are trying to *enhance* female sexual agency by placing greater responsibility on men, or that Roiphe is using an overly narrow conception of autonomy.
- Defend a position on Roiphe's criticism that demonstrates an understanding both of her view and of a charitably interpreted version of the view that she's rejecting.

Roiphe claims that "people [verbally] pressure and manipulate and cajole each other into all sorts of things all of the time"—including sex. However, Roiphe doesn't think that every sexual encounter that results from verbal pressure, manipulation, or cajoling is an instance of rape. Come up with three cases that (a) involve verbal pressure, manipulation, or cajoling but (b) are such that Roiphe wouldn't call them rape. What *should* we call them? (The answers might be different.) And if they aren't rape, then are they morally okay? (Again, the answers might be different.)

A good essay will:

- Provide three reasonably detailed cases that satisfy the requirements in the prompt.
- Defend plausible answers to the "What should we call them?" and "Are they morally okay?" questions, using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

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Roiphe objects to "the denial of female sexual agency." What does she mean by "the denial of female sexual agency," and why does she object to it? On her view, what might it look like to *affirm* female sexual agency?

A good essay will:

- Accurately explain Roiphe's view about the nature of female sexual agency and the problems with its denial.
- Offer a plausible hypothesis about how you might affirm female sexual agency on Roiphe's view, where that hypothesis is demonstrably informed by ideas and examples that Roiphe lays out.

Quiz Questions

1) *Roiphe says that, according to those who take there to be "a rape crisis:"
   a) 1 in 2 women have been raped
   b) 1 in 4 women have been raped
   c) 1 in 6 women have been raped
   d) 1 in 8 women have been raped
   e) 1 in 10 women have been raped

2) Roiphe argues that measuring rape is not as straightforward as it may seem.
   a) True
   b) False

3) Roiphe worries that what will happen if young women buy into rape crisis feminism?
   a) They will live in a perpetual state of fear
   b) They will stop finding sexual partners
   c) They will push back the fight for rights internationally
   d) They will increase their chances of being raped
   e) All of the above

4) *Roiphe objects to images of sexual behavior in which what occurs?

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a) It's OK to try to convince someone to have sex with you
b) You can regret a bad sexual encounter
c) Women are sexual agents
d) Men are sexual agents
e) Men exert pressure and women resist

5) *What does "active consent" mean?
a) Explicitly describing the kind of sexual encounter you'd like to have
b) Explicitly agreeing to have sex
c) Explicitly agreeing not to press charges against your sexual partner at a later date
d) Explicitly describing what you *won't* do, sexually
e) All of the above

6) *What's Roiphe's problem with the question, "Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a man gave you alcohol or drugs?"
a) The question assumes that women are drinking or using drugs when having sex
b) The question assumes that women are having sex that they don't want to have
c) The question assumes that women aren't in control of whether they drink or use drugs
d) The question assumes that men are sober before or during sex
e) The question assumes that women can only get alcohol or drugs from men

7) Roiphe is worried that if we use the word "rape" to refer to everything from emotional pressure to sexual harassment, what will happen?
a) The idea of rape ceases to be powerful
b) There will be an increasing number of legal cases concerning unwanted sexual encounters
c) Men won't know when they're acting immorally
d) Feminists will be marginalized in society
e) All of the above

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8) Why does Roiphe think that there would never be a rule, law, pamphlet, or peer counseling group for men who claimed to have been emotionally raped or verbally pressured into sex?
    a) Women aren't physically strong enough to follow through on emotional or verbal pressure
    b) There's an assumption of men's basic competence, free will and strength of character
    c) Women would not support men if they became more emotionally vulnerable
    d) Most men are busy exercising their power elsewhere, and would not waste time on such activities
    e) We aren't advanced enough to recognize that men can be emotionally raped

9) *Even though Roiphe is critical of "rape-crisis" feminism," she argues that we need to be careful *not* to limit the meaning of "rape" so that it refers only to events involving physical violence or the threat of physical violence.
    a) True
    b) False

10) According to Roiphe, the problem with "the denial of female sexual agency" is that what happens?
    a) It preserves the inequality that earlier feminists fought against
    b) It implies that women are hypersexual
    c) It doesn't deny male sexual agency
    d) It also denies male sexual agency
    e) It ignores how little women care about sex

Media Links

Debate about Feminism on Charlie Rose (1994), including Roiphe
https://youtu.be/Or1_13OZhh0?t=7m21s

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Episode Seven of *Slow Burn* Season Two, "Bedfellows"
https://play.google.com/music/m/Dhoe6jok6upigc3heqlenf4j7iy?t=S2_Ep_7_Bedfellows-Slow_Burn

The Woman Defending Harvey Weinstein
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/07/podcasts/the-daily/weinstein-trial.html

Perspectives on the 'Me Too' Movement
https://www.npr.org/2019/09/01/756564705/perspectives-on-the-metoo-movement

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Nicholas Dixon, "Alcohol and Rape"

Essay Questions

Describe the sort of case about which Nicholas Dixon and Katie Roiphe would disagree. (That is, Dixon would say that it was wrong to have sex in those circumstances, whereas Roiphe wouldn't.) Explain their disagreement, and then either (a) take a side and justify your choice or (b) offer a perspective on the case that differs from both Dixon's and Roiphe's.

A good essay will:

- Describe a case in which Dixon would say that one party fails to meet the "communicative sexuality" standard, and so is wrong, whereas Roiphe would say that having sex is OK. (Example: a casual sexual encounter involving a moderate amount of alcohol where both parties are giving strong nonverbal signals in favor of wanting to have sex, but there is no explicit question and answer about having sex.)
- Explain why Dixon and Roiphe disagree (Dixon thinks the standard for securing consent alters when alcohol is involved; Roiphe thinks that we're at risk of denying female sexual agency).
- Reasonably explain agreement with Dixon or Roiphe or offer an alternative perspective.

People do lots of things when they're drunk that might violate their "more lasting values." However, whether or not we judge drunken sex morally wrong, we seem especially troubled by sexual encounters that violate our lasting values. How come? Do you think that we *should* care as much about what we do sexually while intoxicated? Alternatively, do you think we should care more than we do now? Either way, why?

A good essay will:

- Include—and offer some evidence for—a plausible hypothesis about why we seem especially troubled by the relevant sexual encounters.
- Include a thesis that's focused and appropriate given the assignment.
- Clearly and succinctly state the main argument for the thesis.
- Correctly identify and defend the argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

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Consider the following questions. First, how much are you responsible for what you do when you're drunk? Second, how much are you responsible for what happens to you when you're drunk? Defend your answers.

A good essay will:

- Include theses that are focused and appropriate given the assignment for each question.
- Clearly and succinctly state the main argument for each thesis.
- Demonstrate some awareness of the issues that Dixon (and Roiphe, if assigned) raise concerning these questions.
- Correctly identify and defend each argument's controversial premises using sound reasoning, well-chosen examples, insightful analogies, etc.

Quiz Questions

1) *What is the point of the "fraternity gang rape" case?
   a) It's wrong to have sex with someone who's unconscious
   b) Fraternities promote rape culture
   c) It's a mistake to think that we can fix rape culture by banning fraternities
   d) It's rape if you're so intoxicated that you can't give meaningful consent
   e) Gang rape is a very bad thing

2) What is the point of the "regretted sexual encounter" case?
   a) We can't always give meaningful consent—even when we're sober
   b) People don't need to explicitly say "yes" to sex to give meaningful consent
   c) People do need to explicitly say "yes" to sex to give meaningful consent
   d) Regretting a sexual encounter doesn't mean that you were raped
   e) If you regret a sexual encounter, then you were raped

3) *What is the point of the "impaired sex" case?
   a) It's wrong to have sex with someone who's unconscious.
   b) People don't need to explicitly say "yes" to sex to give meaningful consent.

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c) You can explicitly consent to sex without meaningfully consenting to sex

d) If you explicitly consent to sex, then you've meaningfully consented to sex

e) It is wrong to consume any amount alcohol and then have sex

4) On Roiphe's view, women are autonomous adults, but they aren't responsible for the consequences of their use of alcohol and other drugs.

a) True

b) False

5) *The "Central Park mugger" example is supposed to show that:

a) You are responsible for what happens to you when you make foolish decisions

b) You aren't responsible for what happens to you when you make foolish decisions

c) You are responsible for what happens to you when others make foolish decisions

d) Whether or not you are responsible for something is unrelated to your decisions

e) Making responsible decisions is a very complicated task

6) When Dixon acknowledges that "we should respect women's status as agents," he's saying that:

a) Women are partly responsible for the consequences of heavy drinking

b) Women are entirely responsible for the consequences of heavy drinking

c) Women aren't even partly responsible for the consequences of heavy drinking

d) Women aren't even partly responsible for drinking heavily

e) Women aren't at all responsible when it comes to heterosexual relationships

7) On Pineau's model of "communicative sexuality," when doubt exists about consent _____:

a) The burden is on the man to ask

b) The burden is on the woman to deny

c) The ambiguity makes having sex permissible

d) The partners have already done something wrong

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e) None of the above

8) On Pineau's model of "communicative sexuality," it is never reasonable to assume that a woman consents to "aggressive noncommunicative sex." What does this mean?
   a) A man can't assume that a women is interested in sex if he hasn't explicitly asked her whether she's interested in sex
   b) A man needs to be sensitive to the nonverbal cues that indicate whether a woman is interested in sex
   c) A man can't assume that a woman is interested in rough sex if she hasn't explicitly expressed interest in rough sex
   d) A man can't assume that a woman wants to take a passive role in a sexual encounter
   e) A man is going to have a hard time understanding if a woman consents to sex if he can't verbally communicate with her

9) *On Dixon's view, as long as a man is careful to get explicit consent from a woman who has been drinking heavily, it is morally permissible for him to have sex with her.
   a) True
   b) False

10) *On Dixon's view, restricting men's sexual freedom is justified by:
   a) The goal of maximizing women's sexual freedom
   b) The goal of preventing the perpetuation of rape culture
   c) The goal of preventing regretted sexual encounters
   d) The goal of preventing communicative mistakes
   e) **The goal of preventing the enormous harm of rape**

Media Links

Tea Consent
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQbei5JGiT8

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