Ethics Left and Right - The Moral Issues That Divide Us 1st edition Fischer Test Bank

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Instructor's Manual and Test Bank to accompany

Ethics, Left and Right:
The Moral Issues That Divide Us

First Edition

by Bob Fischer

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Chapter 1:
Dustin Crummett and Chad McIntosh, "Introduction to the Left and Right"

Essay Questions

1. In his essay, Chad McIntosh claims that "The cold hard truth, one acknowledged by nearly every keen observer of humanity throughout history, is that the arc of man's moral nature is long, and it bends not toward justice, but evil." In your essay, explain what McIntosh describes as the problem of the "ineradicability of evil." Do you think that the problem of evil really is ineradicable? Or, do you think that there are things that we can do to manage "human wickedness"? Defend your claim, providing an example that helps to illustrate your point.

A good essay will:

- Describe what McIntosh means by the "ineradicability of evil," drawing from his essay
- Argue that it is not possible to overcome evil that humans perpetuate. Or,
- Argue that there are measures that societies can take to temper the problem of evil. Or,
- Argue that some combination of the above-mentioned stances is possible and defensible
- Provide an illustrative example that helps to illuminate this claim, expounding upon one of the cases brought up in this debate, or introducing a new example

2. In his essay, Dustin Crummett explains part of what is involved in the social egalitarian picture. He says:

> When it comes to power relations, egalitarians generally support making them *reciprocal* where possible, so that no one has *unaccountable* power over another. … Where this reciprocity isn't feasible—as may be the case with, say, a sergeant and a private—egalitarians still insist that the authority possessed by the superior must be justified in terms of the general good, and must be *only* that which is necessary to promote that good.

Clearly, Crummett believes that people in power should be held accountable and that power can be justified when it promotes the common good. In your essay, offer a description of what it would look like to make sure that people in power are held accountable. Then, explain what would be involved in checking to see if power does, in fact, uphold the general good. Finally,

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consider whether the processes you've described are implementable in real-world cases. Briefly consider, does your description complicate or support Crummett's picture?

A good essay will:

- Offer a description, perhaps providing an example, of what would be involved in holding people in power accountable for their power
- Offer a description, perhaps providing an example, of what would be involved in ensuring that some exercise of power can be justified by reference to the common good
- Consider whether these measures could be implemented in real world cases
- Briefly link this discussion to the wider left vs. right debate

3. In their replies, Dustin Crummett and Chad McIntosh clash over their understandings of the relationship between freedom and equality. Crummett affirms that "Social equality is *necessary* for freedom worth having," while McIntosh says that "You can't have both a government powerful enough to enforce social equality *and* a free democracy devoid of the possibility of social inequalities." In your essay, defend a view about the relative worth of Crummett's "freedom worth having" and McIntosh's free democracies.

A good essay will:

- Explain the meanings of the terms at issue
- Provide a case for the relative importance or unimportance of "freedom worth having" and free democracies
- Draw on the arguments that Crummett and/or McIntosh give, as appropriate

Quiz Questions

1. Throughout his essay, Crummett explains and considers the implications of a key view for his position. What is it?

a. Anti-oppression Activism
b. Social Egalitarianism
c. Nationalist Isolationism
d. Economic Redistributionism

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2. *In his essay, which description of equality does Crummett support?

a. People should be made equally well-off
b. People should be treated the same
c. People should all share the same amount of power
d. People should enjoy equal relationships with each other

3. In his essay, Crummett describes four types of unequal relations between groups. Which of the following is NOT one of those relations?

a. Domination
b. Degradation
c. Disregard
d. Exploitation

4. *In his essay, McIntosh affirms that conservatism is all about _____:

a. Conserving the tried and true
b. Maintenance of the status quo
c. Allegiance to past institutional structures
d. The practice of compassion and fairness

5. In his essay, what does McIntosh claim is the most basic unit in society?

a. The individual
b. Local governments
c. The family
d. Grassroots movements

6. In his essay, McIntosh includes multiple pop-culture references in order to illustrate his points. Which of the following is NOT one of those references?

a. Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight*
b. J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*
c. John Lennon's "Imagine"

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d. C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*

7. In his essay, McIntosh claims: "Diversity *per se*, far from being bad, is good. What's bad is *unity* in diversity."

a. True

b. False

8. *In his reply, Crummett focuses on McIntosh's views on two particular issues. What are they?

a. Equality and justice

b. Liberty and labor

c. Freedom and equality

d. Totalitarianism and anarchy

9. *In his reply, McIntosh offers five objections to McIntosh's position. Which of the following is NOT one of those objections?

a. Social equality demands too much sacrifice from family units

b. The ideal of social equality fosters undue skepticism of all hierarchies

c. Attempting to enforce social equality with the law is unjust and self-refuting

d. The concern for social equality seems curiously selective

10. *Which author expresses the concern that Americans are currently living "under someone else's thumb" in his reply?

a. Dustin Crummett

b. Chad McIntosh

Media Links

TED-Ed "The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SOQduoLgRw

Great Thinkers "Edmund Burke"

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https://thegreatthinkers.org/burke/

Daily Nous “Analytic Philosophy’s Egalitarianism and Standpoint Epistemology’s Privileging” http://dailynous.com/2017/10/23/analytic-philosophy-egalitarianism-standpoint-epistemology-privileging/

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Chapter 2:
Dan Bonevac and Gillian Brock, "America First"

Essay Questions

1. In his essay, Daniel Bonevac covers four different philosophical theories—virtue ethics, consequentialism, Kantianism, and moral foundations theory—and shows how each supports his thesis. Which of these theory-driven arguments do you find *most* convincing? Why? Which do you find *least* convincing? Why? Do not simply say *that* you agree and disagree, or that Bonevac's points match your opinions. Instead, be sure to argue for your positions.

A good essay will:

- Explain one of Bonevac's theory-driven arguments, and provide an original argument for why it succeeds
- Explain one of Bonevac's theory-driven arguments, and provide an original argument for why it fails

2. In her reply, Gillian Brock says:

> Partiality clearly has some important role to play in our moral lives. However, just as partiality towards (say) family members or friends may be justified in some cases and not others, partiality towards co-nationals will be similarly circumscribed.

In your essay, give an example of a case where partiality would be morally justified in a person's life. Why would it be justified? Does this justification of acceptable *interpersonal* partiality extend to *international* relationships? In other words, can you identify a case where the reason why it's morally okay to be partial interpersonally is also a sufficient reason to be partial internationally? How does your case relate to the wider debate that Brock and Daniel Bonevac are having?

A good essay will:

- Offer an example of interpersonal partiality, and argue why it is morally justified
- Explore this example to argue whether some feature of it can be extended to international relationships. Or,
- Explore this example to argue that it cannot be extended to international relationships

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- Link the essay's central example to the larger America first debate

3. Daniel Bonevac and Gillian Brock agree that there will be more than one nation even in an ideal world. But they believe for this different reasons. What are those reasons? Which are more plausible? Why?

A good essay will:

- Accurately explain the views of both authors
- Highlight the differences between these views
- Create and elaborate on an example, or otherwise provide an argument, that helps to show why we might find one or the other set of reasons more compelling

Quiz Questions

1. In his essay, Bonevac argues for what thesis?

a. The Moral Foundations Thesis

b. The Cosmopolitan Thesis

c. The America First Thesis

d. The Priority Thesis

2. In his essay, Bonevac claims that Kantianism promotes cosmopolitanism:

a. True

b. False

3. *In his essay, Bonevac argues that which three of Jonathan Haidt's foundations support Bonevac's thesis?

a. Loyalty, authority, and sanctity

b. Care, fairness, and reciprocity

c. Loyalty, fairness, and justice

d. Peace, prosperity, and equality

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4. In her essay, Brock argues that states should be eradicated in favor of a more cosmopolitan global community

a. True

b. False

5. *Which of the following is NOT one the central scaffolds to Brock's Moral Equality Imperative?

a. One should be enabled to meet one's basic needs

b. One must have adequate protection for one's basic liberties

c. Fair terms of cooperation should govern one's collective endeavors

d. One should have recourse to other nations' goods and properties

6. Brock is concerned with balancing which two types of justice?

a. Individual and communal

b. Distributive and restorative

c. Local and global

d. Social and political

7. *Which author makes the claim: "The current pressing issue is not, "Should we be nationalists or cosmopolitans?" Rather, there is much scope for showing creative ways to accommodate the plausible elements in both theories into one coherent, comprehensive, and compelling account."

a. Daniel Bonevac

b. Gillian Brock

8. Which of the authors expresses serious concern over the idea of "cosmic justice" in their reply?

a. Daniel Bonevac

b. Gillian Brock

9. *In her reply, Brock affirms that she does not want to challenge the idea that _____ should have a role to play in our lives:

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a. Cooperation

b. Fairness

c. Partiality

d. Care

10. *In his reply, Bonevac claims that these two things are problematic about cooperation:

a. Cooperation is not always just and cooperation is not always fair

b. Cooperation is not always possible and cooperation is not always good

c. Cooperation is not always possible and cooperation is not always fair

d. Cooperation is not always friendly and cooperation is not always reciprocal

Media Links

The Daily "How the U.S. Military Interprets 'America First'"
https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/14/podcasts/the-daily/the-daily-how-the-us-military-interprets-america-first.html

Aeon "When I help you, I also help myself: on being a cosmopolitan"
https://aeon.co/ideas/when-i-help-you-i-also-help-myself-on-being-a-cosmopolitan

The New York Times "Transcript: Donald Trump Expounds on His Foreign Policy Views," see the section titled "America First"
https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/27/us/politics/donald-trump-transcript.html

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Chapter 3:

Nicole Hassoun and Jason Brennan, "Foreign Aid"

Essay Questions

1. Toward the end of her essay, Nicole Hassoun writes:

> Billions lack access to clean water in their homes and access to essential health services. Millions lack access to adequate sanitation, food, and shelter. Foreign aid alone will not completely solve these problems, but it can help many people live minimally good lives. We should not neglect the water for the sea. Saving even one life is a good thing. A great thing.

In your essay, develop a possible challenge to what Hassoun says. Why might someone doubt that arguments like this—that focus on the goodness of saving "even one life"—should guide countries' aid giving activity abroad?

A good essay will:

- Explain this claim of Hassoun's
- Provide a reasonable criticism of Hassoun's position

2. Throughout Jason Brennan's essay, he raises a number of concerns with the way that philosophers tend to think about the foreign aid question. In your essay, explain one or more of these concerns. To what extent do Nicole Hassoun's arguments have one or more of the problems that Brennan describes?

A good essay will:

- Identify and explain one or more of the passages where Brennan takes issue with philosophers' arguments on aid in his essay (i.e— "This is a topic where normative reasoning and moral philosophy, in isolation, tend to lead us astray;" "Philosophy might uncover what our obligations are *in light of the facts*, but it does not help us discover what the facts are;" "But economics, surprisingly, tells us that philosophers are bad at philosophy. The problem is that these three thought experiments, and all the variations on them, are *irrelevant;"* "Philosophers tend to advocate the policies economists know don't work, and tend to reject the institutions economists know work;" "Philosophers think the actual world is analogous to thought experiments like these. This makes foreign aid seem morally mandatory;" etc.)

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- Develop an argument, drawing from specific elements in Hassoun's essay, to show how her essay either is or is not an instance of the problems that Brennan describes
- An excellent essay *will not* make the part to whole fallacy, suggesting that just because Hassoun's essay does/does not fit the pattern Brennan points to, her work proves/disproves Brennan's point

3. In their replies, Jason Brennan and Nicole Hassoun dig into the issue of whether or not aid is effective in building "good institutions" in the countries where aid is received. This is an area where Brennan and Hassoun disagree. In your essay, explain their disagreement, drawing from both of their works. Then, briefly describe the extent to which you take this issue to be a central one in the aid debate. In other words, how much rides on whether aid builds good institutions? Could it usually be justified even if aid doesn't accomplish this?

A good essay will:

- Provide textual support for each author's claim(s) on aid's efficacy in the construction of "good institutions"

Then, the essay will either:

- Provide a plausible argument for the centrality of institution building in the foreign aid project; or
- Provide a plausible argument against the centrality of institution building

Quiz Questions

1. Hassoun's essay affirms that a "minimally good life" is one where _____:
   a. One is better off than (s)he would be not having existed at all
   b. One can secure what (s)he needs without aid
   c. One lives well enough
   d. One is reasonable, caring, and free

2. In her essay, Hassoun outlines two moral arguments for aid. Identify one of those arguments:
   a. Redistributive justice demands aid

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b. Reasonable, caring, and free persons have strong reason to aid

c. We have an obligation to help everyone live a minimally good life

d. Aid is always effective and productive, so we have a strong reason to aid

3. *In her conclusion, Hassoun affirms that foreign aid should stem from _____:

a. A recognition of the injustices that created inequalities in the first place

b. A desire to increase pleasure and reduce pain

c. An organized effort to end corruption and ineffective global institutions

d. A desire to help others live minimally good lives

4. Throughout his essay, Brennan relies on tools from which discipline to build his case?

a. Economics

b. Sociology

c. Psychology

d. Geography

5. *In his essay, Brennan affirms that there are two *wrong* answers when it comes to answering the question of why some countries are richer than others. What are they?

a. Institutions and imperialism

b. Natural resources and imperialism

c. Isolation and under-development

d. Institutions and open borders

6. In his essay, Brennan argues that if we could get wealthy adults to donate 15 cents a day, we could end world poverty, but people don't have an obligation to aid.

a. True

b. False

7. *Which of the authors affirms the following in their conclusion: "An obligation to help the poor is an obligation to actually help them. Good intentions don't matter"?

a. Nicole Hassoun

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b. Jason Brennan

8. *In his reply, Brennan suggests that there is a basic problem that philosophers ignore. What is it?

a. No forms of aid do good
b. Providing help for others, while admirable, is never obligatory
c. Aid doesn't cause development
d. There's no such thing as a right to a decent life

9. In her reply, Hassoun suggests that she and Brennan agree about many things. Which of the following is one of those things?

a. Aid can do some good
b. It is possible for foreigners to build good institutions
c. Developed countries harmed people in developing countries
d. Causes of poverty are complex

10. *In her reply, Hassoun disagrees with which of Brennan's guiding ideas?

a. Access to natural resources inhibits a country's growth
b. Aid should do good for individuals
c. Poor countries stay poor because of their institutions
d. Aid should increase economic growth

Media Links

The Washington Times "GOP appropriators urge Trump to reconsider cuts to foreign aid"
https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/aug/16/gop-appropriators-urge-trump-reconsider-cuts-forei/

Aeon "After the Storm"
https://aeon.co/essays/disaster-relief-as-a-threat-to-state-sovereignty

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