

Medical Ethics Test #1 Study Guide

About Ethics

- What is Logical Positivism?
- What is Emotivism, and how is it a result of Logical Positivism?
- Give two objections that show that Logical Positivism is false.
- Give two objections that show that the fact/opinion distinction is obsolete.
- What is Cultural Moral Relativism? How would its truth affect how you practice medicine?
- Why would someone think CMR is true? Give an argument for it.
- Give three arguments against CMR.

Why do you treat people?

- What is the difference between a descriptive concept and a normative concept?
- What is the difference between disease and illness as we discussed in class?
- Give a probable example from each of the following categories: disease, illness, normatively bad but neither a disease nor an illness.
- What difference does the above distinction make for how you practice medicine?
- Give the four Aristotelian causes and be able to determine what cause something is.

When are you done treating someone?

- What is the difference between therapy and enhancement?
- What category (therapy or enhancement) do preventatives go in? What is medicine for?
- What are some reasons to minimize enhancements?
- Do patient desires determine whether something is a therapy or enhancement? Why or why not?
- Know how to assess whether you are obligated to treat, using the above distinctions.
- What is the difference between pain and suffering?
- What are some of the difficulties in weighing pain and suffering against physical health?
- Know how to assess whether you are obligated to treat, using the above distinctions.

Does it matter how you heal someone?

- What are the three major ethical theories, and what are their main differences?
- What is the difference between goals and responsibilities?
- What is Utilitarianism?
- What are the main reasons for Utilitarianism?
- Is Utilitarianism egalitarian? Does it require that the agent calculate before acting?
- Give what you take to be the three best objections to Utilitarianism.

How do you make difficult choices?

- Give the general form of an ethical argument (that one should use to determine the right thing to do).
- Show how normative and applied ethics fit into the moral reasoning argument above.
- What is Deontology? What is Principlism?
- Be able to name and describe the four pillars (or principles) of medical ethics.
- What are two main critiques of Principlism?

Can you do something you know has a bad effect?

- Be able to produce the moral dilemma form and apply it to a particular situation.
- What are the two best ways out of a moral dilemma?
- What are Beauchamp and Childress' six principles for weighing what to do in a dilemma?
- What types of cases is the doctrine of double effect (DDE) supposed to help resolve?
- What are the four conditions for satisfying DDE?
- Be able to apply DDE in a particular situation.

How should we compose ourselves in decision-making contexts?

- What is Virtue Ethics?
- What is a virtue, according to Aristotle?
- Name some of the Aristotelian virtues and the excesses and defects that they are the means between.
- In what ways are virtues dependent on (or relative to) agents or situations?
- Be able to say whether an action is a virtue or a vice and why.
- What are the stages of virtue acquisition?
- What is Stoicism?
- Do Stoics seek to suppress all emotions? Explain why or why not.
- What are three reasons for someone to be a Stoic?
- What are three suggestions Stoics make for achieving apatheia?