

Medical Ethics Test #3 Study Guide

Abortion

What is abortion? What are the three methods of aborting a fetus, and when are they performed?
When do these events happen in a fetus' life: implantation, brain/spinal development, quickening, viability
What are the 3 main reasons women choose to have an abortion?
Be able to give the argument from infanticide against the permissibility of abortion.
Be able to give the argument from personhood against the permissibility of abortion.
How do people usually object to the first premise? What are the typical replies to those objections?
What are three kinds of cases that any criterialist view of personhood must respect?

What was the decision in *Rowe v. Wade*? What reasons did the court give for its ruling?
How did the court reaffirm *Rowe v. Wade* in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*?

What premise of the argument from personhood does Judith Jarvis Thompson argue against?
What examples does JJT give to defend the moral permissibility of abortion?
What are these examples meant to illustrate? What replies can someone give to JJT's defenses?

Euthanasia

What is the difference between active and passive euthanasia?
What is the difference between voluntary, non-voluntary, and involuntary euthanasia?
What is the difference between withholding and withdrawing treatment?
Be able to justify placing a case into one of the categories above.
What is physician-assisted suicide?
Give 3 arguments for the permissibility of active euthanasia (autonomy, beneficence, killing/letting die).
Be able to provide responses to the above three arguments.
Why would someone think there is not a moral distinction between killing and letting die?
Give 2 arguments for the impermissibility of active euthanasia (nature, practical effects).
Give reasons for the permissibility of passive euthanasia.

What is a power of attorney, and how does it permit a proxy to make decisions for a patient?
What is the Ashley treatment? Give arguments for and against its permissibility.

Genetic Engineering

What are two arguments against genetic screening?
What are two reasons not to allow genetic engineering and/or modification?
What are some arguments for encouraging patients to have genetic abortions?
What are the typical replies to these arguments?
Be able to give and reply to the Wheel of Fortune Argument for the requirement to have a genetic abortion.

Extending Life

Give some examples of technology that could extend our lives.
Should we adopt technology that extends our lives? Why or why not?
What is a human life for? How does the answer to this question help answer the above question?
Should we adopt tech that enhances our ability to think by interfacing our brains with AI? Why or why not?
What are some reasons to think that we will lose our identity if we adopt the hybrid technology above?