S6 Ethics and Religious Studies Practice Paper: Consequentialism and Deontology, Virtue Ethics and Moral Judgement, Euthanasia and End-of-Life Decisions, Sexual Ethics and Relationships, Religion, Science and Religious Experience, Environmental Ethics and Animal Rights

S6 | Ethics and Religious Studies | Time: 75 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 24 questions

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Part A - Consequentialism and Deontology (16 marks)

Show your computation and name the ethical theory you apply.

1. A community must choose one of three vaccination programmes. Programme A yields welfare units of 210, 150 and 90; Programme B yields 180, 180 and 60; Programme C yields 240, 120 and 30. Using classical utilitarianism, find the total welfare of each programme and state which one should be chosen. [4]

2. A donation of 320000 dollars can help 4000 people under Programme A, or 2000 people under Programme B where the cost is 200000 dollars. Find the cost per beneficiary of each programme, say how a utilitarian would choose, and state one criticism of that choice. [4]

3. A policy benefits 48 out of 320 people. Find the proportion benefited. Someone argues that sacrificing the interests of those 48 people is acceptable whenever total welfare is higher. Respond using Kant formulation of humanity as an end. [4]

4. Explain how act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism differ on (1) the object of judgement and (2) the treatment of lying. State how rule utilitarianism avoids one major difficulty of act utilitarianism. [4]

Part B - Virtue Ethics and Moral Judgement (16 marks)

Name specific virtues and justify your judgement.

5. A care worker self-reports certain principles. In 24 moral judgement scenarios, 18 of the judgements match those principles. Find the consistency rate, and explain how virtue ethics accounts for the gap between knowing and acting. [4]

6. Aristotle explains virtue as a mean. Using courage, name the excess and the deficiency, and explain why the mean is not an arithmetic average. [4]

7. A school asks 5 reviewers to mark a moral decision report. Their marks are 6, 7, 8, 7, 7. Find the mean mark, and explain why virtue ethics values the character and practical experience of judges rather than marks alone. [4]

8. An experienced doctor makes a wrong judgement under peer pressure, then admits the error and improves the procedure. Assess this with consequentialism and with virtue ethics, and say which assessment better captures reform and repentance. [4]

Part C - Euthanasia and End-of-Life Decisions (18 marks)

Show computations; present both sides for argumentative questions.

9. Compare two end-of-life care arrangements using quality-adjusted life years. Arrangement A gives 2 extra years at a quality weight of 0.6; Arrangement B gives 5 extra years at 0.4. Find the QALY per patient and compare the total for 20 patients. [4]

10. A hospice has an annual budget of 1200000 dollars for 8 patients. Find the average resources per patient. If the hospice must decide whether to fund costly life-sustaining treatment for one patient, state the case for the resource-allocation argument and for the patient-autonomy argument. [4]

11. Distinguish active euthanasia, passive euthanasia and withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, and assess whether the claim that there is no moral difference between them holds. [5]

12. A terminally ill patient refuses further treatment while the family demands resuscitation. Analyse the case with autonomy, beneficence and non-maleficence, and state one practical difficulty in carrying it out. [5]

Part D - Sexual Ethics and Relationships (16 marks)

Ground your answer in a stated ethical basis rather than assertion alone.

13. A survey of 240 people finds that 96 consider informed consent the most important condition in sexual relationships. Find that proportion, and explain why a consent-centred ethic may still be criticised as insufficient. [4]

14. A couple disagree about disclosing past relationships. Analyse the case with deontology and with an ethics of care, and identify the tension between the two approaches here. [4]

15. A discussion group proposes that effort in a relationship be divided in the ratio 3 to 7. Find each share as a percentage, and comment on whether a fixed ratio is an adequate measure of a relationship. [4]

16. Explain how gender-role expectations shape adolescents understanding of intimate relationships, and suggest two concrete ways to build respectful relationships. [4]

Part E - Religion, Science and Religious Experience (18 marks)

Show the arithmetic for data questions; state premises and conclusions for arguments.

17. A survey of religious attitudes interviews 500 randomly selected people. Estimating sampling error as one over the square root of the sample size, find the error in percentage points to one decimal place, and explain why this figure alone cannot establish reliability. [4]

18. A believer records 40 prayer episodes and reports a sense of being answered in 32 of them. Find the proportion, and explain why such personal testimony cannot by itself establish the veracity of religious experience. [4]

19. Assess the claim that science and religion must conflict. First distinguish two senses of conflict, then assess each. [5]

20. Compare the evidential strength of the argument from religious experience with psychological explanations of such experience, and identify one problem neither side resolves. [5]

Part F - Environmental Ethics and Animal Rights (16 marks)

Show the computation and state the units.

21. Two people fly 5500 km, with aviation emissions of about 0.15 kg per passenger-kilometre; rail emits about 0.03 kg per passenger-kilometre. Find the total emissions of each mode and the percentage reduction from taking the train. [4]

22. A housing estate has 320 households using 1200 kWh a year each, with 0.55 kg of carbon dioxide per kWh. Find the annual total emissions in tonnes, and comment on the claim that individual action is pointless and only policy works. [4]

23. Producing 1 kg of meat requires about 12 kg of feed. Find the feed conversion ratio, and comment on industrial farming from utilitarianism and from animal rights theory. [4]

24. Explain the different grounds that anthropocentrism and ecocentrism give for protecting endangered species, and state a difficulty for each. [4]
