

Name _____ Date _____

How to Answer Moral Questions

There are many different ways to answer moral questions. Ethicists have come to a common understanding of the ideal moral judgment.

Ingredients:

1. Terminology-must use commonly understood terms.
2. Information- as much relevant information as possible must be gathered.
3. Rationality-judgement participants must be logical
4. Impartiality- a neutral position on the issue must be assumed.
5. Control emotions-“calm” is the preferred decision-making environment.
6. Moral principles should be applied in decision making.

1. Why is it important to use commonly accepted terms in a moral discussion?
 - A. Participants need to be free to have their own views on the topic under consideration.
 - B. Failure to define terms will cloud the issues.
 - C. It isn't important: Moral discussions are too important to waste time on definitions.

Explain your answer:

2. Which of the following components of the ideal moral judgment is most difficult to achieve?
 - A. Applying moral principles to your decision.
 - B. Preserving calm when discussing controversial questions.
 - C. Remaining unbiased.

Explain your answer:

3. How does one engage in rational and logical discussion?
 - A. You wait until the rage inside you boils over.
 - B. Employ a systematic, step-by-step approach to analysis.
 - C. As long as you remain calm, any approach to thinking is acceptable.

Explain your answer:

4. What approach should you take when gathering information for an Ideal Moral Judgment?
 - A. Focus on the facts that support your position.
 - B. Do not be selective-accept all relevant data on the topic.
 - C. Be fair and selective.

Explain your answer:

5. Is morality just a matter of opinion?
 - A. No, religion is the source for morality
 - B. Yes, what is right for me may not be right for you.
 - C. Yes, but not just the opinion of an individual, but rather what most people think.

Explain your answer:

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Answers

1. B- For a discussion to take place, a common language must be spoken. Murder is an example of a term that requires a common definition. Without this common definition, one side could be discussing apples and the other side oranges.
2. There are two answers to this question: B. and C. Moral issues are hot topics that cause heated discussions. Many people have already made up their minds on these perplexing questions.
3. B. Rationality and logic require a systematic approach to problem solving. Both the system and its application require a reasonable approach to their use. An illogical example could be found in the following syllogism.
“All cats are four-legged creatures.
My dog has four legs.
My dog is a cat.”
4. C –You must aim for fairness and impartiality when researching the topic. However, not all resources are equally reliable and time is always a constraint.
5. Expect all three answers. We live in a diverse society where many different views are expressed. A theist will tout the Bible, a relativist will accept differing views, and a utilitarian will look for what benefits the majority.