

Name: _____

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ECS 089L: Ethics for Technology

Quiz 1

October 4, 2024

Answer key

1) According to the Wikipedia article on “Categorical imperative” that you were meant to read for today, how many formulations of categorical imperative did Immanuel Kant propose:

- a. Only one, the universality principle
- b. Three, “Universality”, “Humanity”, and “Autonomy”
- c. At least four, the three from answer b), and an additional one that is often discussed, “The kingdom of ends”
- d. None, as Kant did not believe in imperatives

Kant developed many formulations to explain his categorical imperative(s); the 3 main ones are “Universality”, “Humanity”, and “Autonomy” but the Wikipedia article correctly identifies a fourth one, “the kingdom of ends”.

2) According to the Wikipedia article, what did Kant think about determinism?

- a. He argued in favor of determinism, as all our actions are determined by the fact that we follow the moral law
- b. He argued against, as he said that it was inconsistent
- c. We don’t know, as he never mentioned it

Kant believed that there was a sense of circular reasoning within determinism

3) According to Kant, slavery is immoral because

- a. There are better ways to obtain free labor from a person
- b. We can’t answer this question: slavery was not known at the time of Kant, so he could never have thought about it
- c. The pains of slavery outweighs the benefits a slave owner gets
- d. It denies the status of a person as an end in themselves.

This is the key to Kant’s categorical imperative: people need to be treated as ends in themselves.

4) According to Kant, the idea of transcendental freedom stems from the question:

- a. What can I do?
- b. Why do I study?
- c. What ought I to do?
- d. Who am I?

This is Kant’s sense of ethics: finding how we ought to behave.