ETHICS IN AMERICA

EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This exam covers topics including ethical religious traditions, ethical analysis of real-world issues, embryonic stem-cell research, euthanasia, affirmative action, criminal justice and capital punishment. The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

Form Codes: SS474, ST474, SY474, SZ474

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent: Ethics in America
Level: Lower-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Minimum Score: 400
Source: www.acenet.edu

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

I. Contemporary Foundational Issues – 10%
a. Relativism, Subjectivism and Absolutism
b. Determinism and Free Will
c. Relationship between morality and religion

II. Ethical Traditions – 50%
a. Greek views: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle
b. Religious Traditions
   Law and Justice: Epictetus, Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Jefferson, Kant, King, Rawls, Nozick
c. Consequentialist Ethics: Epicurus, Smith, Bentham, Mill, Rand
d. Feminist/Womanist Ethics: Gilligan, Nodding

III. Ethical Analysis of real-world issues – 40%
a. Morality, relationships, and sexuality (e.g. pornography, adultery, prostitution, LGBT)
b. Life and death issues (e.g. abortion, euthanasia, suicide, assisted suicide)
c. Economic issues (inequality, poverty, equal opportunity commodification)
d. Civil rights (racism, affirmative action)
e. Criminal Justice and Punishment (e.g. capital punishment, retributive justice, drug policy)
f. War and peace (e.g. Just War tradition)
g. Life centered and human centered ethics (e.g. animals, environmental issues)
h. Human rights
i. Biomedical ethics (e.g. experimentation, embryonic stem cell research, human subjects, organ donation)
j. Artificial Intelligence

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. The following are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam.

1. Which of the following thinkers evaluates the morality of actions in terms of the amount of pleasure and pain they produce?

     a. Aristotle

     b. Kant

     c. Bentham

     d. King

2. According to which of the following philosophers is it immoral to commit suicide?

     a. The hedonist Epicurus because suicide decreases one's pleasure.

     b. The stoic Epictetus because suicide is contrary to nature.

     c. Kant because persons who commit suicide treat themselves as a means only.

     d. Mill because suicide never maximizes utility.

3. Which of the following is an example of how social demographics influence moral action?

     a. Mobilization of animal rights advocates

     b. Coalition-building among fashion designers

     c. Unionization of the NFL players' association

     d. Civil rights advocacy by feminist activists

Answers to sample questions:

1-C, 2-C, 3-D