



ETHICS IN AMERICA

TEST INFORMATION

This test was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. The school may choose to award college credit to the student based on the achievement of a passing score. The ultimate passing score for each examination is determined by the school. The school is provided with a recommended passing score established by a national committee of college faculty who teach these courses. The DSST program is approved by the American Council on Education (ACE), and the ACE provides both a recommended passing score and a recommended number of credits that could be awarded to successful students. Some schools set their own standards for awarding credit and may require a higher score than the ACE recommendation. Students should obtain this information from the institution from which they expect to receive credit.

This exam includes an **optional essay** not scored by DSST raters. The essay is forwarded to the college or university that you designate, along with your score report, for their use in determining the award of credit. Check with your college or university to determine whether the essay is required.

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. Ethical Traditions – 44%

- a. Greek views: Thucydides, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
- b. Religious traditions
- c. Moral law: Epictetus, Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Jefferson, Kant, Royce, King, Rawls, Nozick

- d. Consequential ethics: Epicurus, Smith, Bentham, Mill, Rand
- e. Feminist ethics: Gilligan, Noddings

II. Ethical Analysis of Issues and Practical Applications – 56%

- a. Morality, relationships, and sexuality
- b. Life and death issues
- c. Economic inequity, poverty, and equal opportunity
- d. Racism and affirmative action
- e. Punishment
- f. War and peace
- g. Life-centered and human-centered ethics
- h. Human rights
- i. Biomedical ethics

REFERENCES

The following references were used to create exam questions and may be useful as study materials. You are not allowed to use these references in the testing center.

1. *Moral Philosophy: Theories and Issues*, 4th Edition, 2007, Emmet Barcalow, Wadsworth Publishing/Thomson, ISBN: 0495007153, 10 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94002, (www.wadsworth.com).
2. **New Reference!** *Ethics: Theory and Practice*, 10th Edition, 2008, Jacques P. Thiroux and Keith W. Krasemann, Prentice Hall/Pearson Education, ISBN: 0205672361, One Lake Street, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458 (www.vig.prenhall.com).

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SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. You may want to review these samples for the type 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. For a utilitarian, the ethical evaluation of a decision to tell a lie will NOT depend on whether the
 - a. person to whom the lie is told will benefit from the lie
 - b. person telling the lie would mind someone else lying to him or her
 - c. person telling the lie will suffer if the truth is told
 - d. lie will cause suffering to third parties

OPTIONAL ESSAY

The essay will ask the examinee to analyze a morally problematic situation in terms of issues relevant to a decision and arguments for alternative positions; it will require the examinee to reach his / her own reasoned conclusion.

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials of the American Council on Education (ACE) has reviewed and evaluated the DSST test development process for and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent	Ethics in America
Level	Upper-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit	Three (3) semester hours
Source	ACE Commission on Education Credit and Credentials

It is advisable that schools develop a consistent policy about awarding credit based on scores from this test and that the policy be reviewed periodically. Prometric will be happy to help schools in this effort.

Answers to sample questions: 1-C; 2-C; 3-B.

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