



Fact Sheet 2008

ETHICS IN AMERICA

TEST INFORMATION

This test was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that which is 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 this course. 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.

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.

Ethics in America Exam Content Outline

- 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. *Ethics in America*, Second Edition, 2004, Lisa H. Newton, Prentice Hall/Pearson Education, One Lake Street, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458, vig.prenhall.com.
2. *Moral Philosophy: Theories and Issues*, Fourth Edition, 2007, Emmett Barcalow, Wadsworth Publishing/Thomson, 10 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94002, www.wadsworth.com.

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

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

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 and has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent	Ethics in America
Level	Lower 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.