

## Fallacy Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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:

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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:

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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:

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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:

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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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Character Education-Advanced

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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.