

Practice Midterm Exam

Multiple Choice: Select the BEST answer.

1. The function of the \_\_\_\_\_ is to raise the question which will be answered by the reasoning process.
  - A. conclusion
  - B. issue
  - C. inference
  - D. implication
  - E. topic
  
2. "All truth is relative." This claim is . . .
  - A. subjective and relative.
  - B. subjective and absolute.
  - C. objective and absolute.
  - D. normative and relative.
  - E. objective and subjective.
  
3. Which of the following are characteristics of truth? (Bubble all that apply.)
  - A. It corresponds to reality.
  - B. It is determined by the individual.
  - C. It is determined by the society.
  - D. It is independent of belief.
  - E. It is essentially trans-cultural.
  
4. "No one can say what's right or wrong." This is an example of:
  - A. a self-refuting claim.
  - B. something that's proven to be true.
  - C. a matter of opinion.
  - D. something that, while not technically proven, is what thoughtful people say, because it would be arrogant to believe otherwise.
  
5. Infallibility is an implication of which of the following?
  - A. Objectivism
  - B. Active knowing
  - C. The three laws of logic
  - D. Subjectivism
  - E. Subjective claims
  
6. Those who are angered by high taxes, but favor increases in government spending on their favorite programs are . . .
  - A. relying on the law of the excluded middle.
  - B. logically inconsistent.
  - C. using logic.
  - D. called objectivists.
  - E. none of the above.

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7. Which of the following are matters of opinion? (Bubble all that apply.)
- A. Whether or not mint ice cream tastes delicious.
  - B. Whether or not abortion violates the rights of the unborn.
  - C. Whether or not God exists.
  - D. Whether or not guns should be banned.
  - E. Whether or not Senator Boxer is a criminal.
8. "President Bush should resign." Which of the following does is **NOT** a characteristic of this sentence?
- A. A matter of opinion.
  - B. A prescriptive claim.
  - C. An objective claim.
  - D. A relative claim.
9. Normative claims are. . .
- A. always subjective.
  - B. prescriptive claims dealing with right and wrong behavior.
  - C. never true or false.
  - D. often objective and absolute.
  - E. both b) and d)
10. "John Kerry ran for president in 2004," is an example of . . . (Bubble all correct answers.)
- A. an objective claim
  - B. a subjective claim
  - C. an absolute claim
  - D. a relative claim
  - E. a descriptive claim
11. "The dog is scratching again. I told you he had fleas." This argument assumes:
- A. The dog is scratching.
  - B. The dog scratched before.
  - C. The dog has fleas.
  - D. Fleas make dogs scratch.
  - E. All of the above.
12. When evaluating the purpose, goal, or end in view, which of the following is NOT an important consideration?
- A. Identify differing purposes
  - B. Choose significant and realistic purposes
  - C. Check periodically to be sure you are still on target
  - D. Identify non-critical thinking motives
  - E. Identify weaknesses in your opponent's reasons

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13. The term "multilogical" describes situations where . . .
- A. the law of the excluded middle becomes void.
  - B. the use of logic becomes impossible, so no claim is true, and reasoning is pointless.
  - C. a number of complex factors must be considered in the reasoning process.
  - D. logical inconsistency reigns
  - E. both a) and c).
14. When confronted with information that does not line up with what you've previously thought, it is important to . . .
- A. immediately refute your opposition to show that you are right.
  - B. put your belief in suspension until further research is possible.
  - C. stick with the position that makes you feel better.
  - D. ask them questions to assess the quality of their viewpoint and evidence.
  - E. both B. and D.
15. Which of the following is NOT a premise indicator?
- A. because
  - B. since
  - C. for example
  - D. also
  - E. it follows that
16. Which of the following is best treated as a **statement**?
- A. Would you please stop making that noise?
  - B. Ouch!
  - C. Get out of that burning house before the roof collapses.
  - D. I hate the taste of pineapple.
17. "Self-refuting" means:
- A. the claim is subjective.
  - B. everything needed to disprove the claim is in the claim itself.
  - C. the claim could not be false.
  - D. the claim cannot be discussed.
18. An idea or thought, especially a generalized idea of a thing or of a class of things is called . . .
- A. incorrigible
  - B. subjectivism
  - C. a concept
  - D. meaningless
  - E. transcendental Confucianism.

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19. Which of the conclusions below does not logically follow from the following passage: The right to life is the most basic human right, the one on which all other rights depend. Thus, regardless of the nobility of our ends, human beings should never be intentionally killed by the state.
- A. Since convicted murderers are humans, they should never be executed.
  - B. The death penalty constitutes a violation of the executed prisoner's right to life.
  - C. Even if the death penalty leads to a safer society by deterring would-be criminals, capital punishment should nonetheless be abolished.
  - D. If executions of criminals ultimately leads to less killing in society, then the death penalty should be endorsed.
20. Suppose Bernice is a religious person, but discovers that there is no god. Which is NOT an implication of this discovery?
- A. The existence of God depends on whether or not one believes he exists.
  - B. The Bible isn't true.
  - C. No one hears her prayers.
  - D. Life has no inherent purpose
  - E. People have no intrinsic value apart from what they give themselves.
21. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of truth?
- A. It corresponds to reality.
  - B. It is independent of belief.
  - C. It never changes.
  - D. It is trans-cultural.
  - E. It is often difficult to figure out.
22. "Cannibalism is wrong." This claim is:
- A. an example that shows why relativism must be correct.
  - B. subjective and relative
  - C. relative only
  - D. all of the above
  - E. none of the above
23. Faith is . . .
- A. something that has no place in philosophical discussions.
  - B. a reasonable belief that requires an element of risk or trust.
  - C. devoid of reason or evidence, therefore always irrational.
  - D. always anti-intellectual
  - E. both c and d.

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24. "Should" means . . .
- A. only that it is someone's opinion.
  - B. what something could or would be.
  - C. that the claim is contrary to fact.
  - D. that there is an overriding reason supporting the claim.
  - E. all of the above
25. An assumption is. . .
- A. an unstated reason
  - B. something that is implied
  - C. something that is inferred
  - D. sometimes stated, but not well supported
  - E. all of the above
26. Which best describes human beings?
- A. They have a universal invariant nature.
  - B. Their nature depends upon their culture.
  - C. They have no "nature."
  - D. Whether or not humans have a "nature" depends on what one believes.

True or False

- T F 27. Assumptions are unstated reasons.
- T F 28. Faith is not necessarily associated with religion.
- T F 29. Critical thinking demands that we never make any assumptions whatsoever.
- T F 30. Implying is said to be analogous to hearing.
- T F 31. The proper view is that philosophical opinions and religious belief should be on the side of objective truth rather than on the side of subjective taste.
- T F 32. An implication is a word or phrase that signals the occurrence of a premise.
- T F 33. Normative claims can be objective, absolute, and false all at the same time.
- T F 34. For all practical purposes, "disagreement" is equal to "no right answer."
- T F 35. The purpose of critical thinking is to teach people how to win any argument.
- T F 36. Implications are conclusions that are given by the sender.
- T F 37. One way you can know that a claim is subjective is when the person says, "In my opinion . . ."
- T F 38. Wisdom is the morally correct application of knowledge.

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- T F 39. All absolute claims are objective.
- T F 40. The words **statement**, **claim**, and **proposition** all mean exactly the same thing.
- T F 41. Knowledge is an idea that you have which matches external reality.
- T F 42. An argument could easily be a masterpiece of rhetorical skill and still be a bad argument.
- T F 43. An item of information becomes a **fact** when only once it becomes *known*.
- T F 44. *Egocentrism* is the tendency to see one's own culture as superior to others.
- T F 45. Generally speaking, if a belief is held by most people, this is evidence that the belief or practice should be accepted.
- T F 46. Two statements are inconsistent when they both can't be true.
- T F 47. Some matters of fact are impossible to verify.
- T F 48. The words "issue" and "topic" are interchangeable.
- T F 49. The claim, "Global warming is primarily caused by human activity" is an example of non-debatable claim.

Essay

50. Discuss each of the three bases for ethics and explain their implications for moral claims (i.e., are they usually subjective or objective, etc.) and explain WHY. Clarify key terms. (Only complete answers will receive credit.)

Answer Key for Test "Practice\_Midterm\_Spring08", 5/19/08

No. in No. on

Q-Bank	Test	Correct Answer
1 106	1	Issue
1 31	2	?
1 58	3	It corresponds to reality and It is essentially trans-cultural.
1 182	4	A self-refuting claim.
1 60	5	Subjectivism
1 53	6	Logically inconsistent
1 55	7	Whether or not mint ice cream tastes delicious.
1 48	8	A matter of opinion.
1 34	9	?
1 23	10	?
1 141	11	Fleas make dogs scratch.
1 105	12	Identify weaknesses in your opponent's reasons
1 19	13	?
1 41	14	E
1 133	15	It follows that
1 83	16	I hate the taste of pineapple.
1 189	17	Everything needed to disprove the claim is in the claim itself.
1 28	18	?
1 78	19	If executions of criminals ultimately leads to less killing in society, then the death penalty should be endorsed.
1 120	20	The existence of God depends on whether or not one believes he exists.
1 204	21	It never changes.
1 199	22	None of the above
1 46	23	A reasonable belief that requires an element of risk or trust.
1 36	24	That there is an overriding reason supporting the claim.
1 108	25	An unstated reason
1 151	26	They have a universal invariant nature.
1 66	27	T
1 174	28	T
1 81	29	F
1 137	30	F
1 14	31	F
1 63	32	F
1 9	33	T
1 191	34	F
1 69	35	F
1 118	36	T
1 72	37	F
1 3	38	T
1 164	39	T
1 128	40	T
1 167	41	T
1 94	42	T
1 98	43	T
1 80	44	F
1 90	45	F

Answer Key for Test "Practice\_Midterm\_Spring08", 5/19/08

No. in No. on

<u>Q-Bank</u>	<u>Test</u>	<u>Correct Answer</u>
1 91	46	T
1 100	47	T
1 211	48	F
1 217	49	F
1 215	50	See the Lectures/Lessons section of the website for the complete answer.