

Would You Rather Ethics Activity

Utilitarianism Version

- 1. Personal Gain vs. Collective Good:** Would you rather win \$5 million for yourself or have your country's poorest city receive \$50 million in educational and infrastructure improvements?
- 2. Exploration vs. Preservation:** Would you rather allow scientists to conduct experiments that could potentially harm a newly discovered, unique ecosystem in the pursuit of knowledge, or protect that ecosystem without gaining the knowledge?
- 3. Local vs. Global Priorities:** Would you rather invest in solving a critical issue in your community that affects hundreds or contribute to a global cause that has a minor positive impact on millions?
- 4. Knowledge vs. Happiness:** Would you rather live in a society where everyone is happy but ignorant of larger truths or a society where knowledge is abundant but happiness is not guaranteed?
- 5. Life-Saving Dilemma:** Would you rather save a renowned scientist on the brink of a groundbreaking medical discovery or save five people you've never met?
- 6. Personal Sacrifice:** Would you rather cut off your pinky finger to save a hundred strangers on the other side of the world who you will never meet or retain your finger while letting the strangers perish?
- 7. Futuristic Decision:** Would you rather shut down an AI that feels emotions and contributes positively to society or let it live at the cost of jobs for a thousand people?
- 8. Cultural Preservation:** Would you rather save a village with rich cultural heritage from being submerged due to dam construction, or proceed with the dam that would provide electricity to millions?
- 9. Resource Allocation:** Would you rather allocate resources to research a rare disease affecting a few or divert those resources to slightly improve general healthcare for many?
- 10. Privacy vs. Security:** Would you rather live in a society with total surveillance that guarantees safety or live in a society with complete privacy but a higher risk of crime?
- 11. Historical Relevance:** Would you rather save an invaluable piece of historical artwork from a fire or save one stranger from a fire? What about the artwork versus saving a dog?
- 12. Quality vs. Quantity of Life:** Would you rather save one child or ensure that fifty elderly individuals live another decade?

Utilitarianism Versus Absolutism Version

1) Lying for Good:

- A) Lie to a terminally ill child about their prognosis because it would make their remaining days happier (utilitarian)
- B) Tell the child the truth, because lying is always wrong (absolutism)

2) Economic Trade-offs:

- A) Approve a policy that significantly boosts the economy but widens the gap between the rich and poor, leading to increased overall happiness but greater inequality (utilitarian).
- B) Reject the policy because it's inherently wrong to actively increase societal inequality, even if some economic benefits are foregone (absolutism).

3) Risk of Catastrophe:

- A) Approve a scientific experiment with a 15% chance of causing a regional catastrophe but a 85% chance of solving global energy needs (utilitarian).
- B) Prohibit any such experiment, because the potential direct harm, no matter how small the risk, is an absolute breach of duty (absolutism).

4) Historical Artifacts:

- A) Sell a country's invaluable historical artifact to a private collector if the money would provide healthcare for millions (utilitarian).
- B) Preserve the artifact in a public museum because certain things are intrinsically invaluable and should not be commodified, even if there are potential widespread benefits (absolutism).

5) Medical Dilemma:

- A) Divert a shipment of life-saving medicine to a city experiencing an outbreak, potentially saving thousands but causing the death of a few hundred patients in the original destination who rely on it (utilitarian approach).
- B) Deliver the medicine to the original destination, ensuring the few hundred patients continue to live, but risking the death of thousands in the outbreak city (absolutist approach: keeping the promise).

6) Whistleblower Scenario:

- A) Expose a corrupt government operation, leading to potential short-term chaos and many deaths but promising long-term reform and greater overall good (utilitarian approach).
- B) Remain silent, upholding your oath and ensuring immediate stability, even if it means the corrupt system persists (absolutist approach: loyalty and oath-keeping).

7) Pandemic Control:

- A) Enforce strict quarantine measures during a pandemic, even if it means separating families and causing distress, to save the maximum number of lives (utilitarian approach).
- B) Uphold individual rights and freedoms, allowing people to make personal choices, even if it leads to a higher death toll (absolutist approach).

8) AI Ethics:

- A) Program a self-driving car to prioritize the lives of multiple pedestrians over its single passenger if a collision is imminent (utilitarian approach).
- B) Program the car to always prioritize the passenger's safety above all else, adhering to a principle of utmost care to the user (absolutist approach).

9) Stolen Medicine:

- A) Steal medicine from a well-supplied hospital to treat a group of critically ill orphans in a remote area, potentially saving their lives but committing a crime (utilitarian approach).
- B) Respect property laws and not steal, possibly leading to the orphans' deaths but upholding the principle of respecting others' property (absolutist approach).

10) Innocent Imprisonment:

- A) Imprison an innocent person if doing so would prevent widespread panic and riots that could harm or kill many people (utilitarian approach).
- B) Refuse to imprison someone without just cause, even if it risks societal upheaval and potential harm to many (absolutist approach)

11) Genetic Engineering:

- A) Support genetic engineering to eliminate hereditary diseases and increase average human lifespan, even if it might have unforeseen consequences on the human genome and sense of identity (utilitarian approach).
- B) Oppose genetic manipulation of humans, asserting that tampering with our natural state is morally wrong regardless of potential benefits (absolutist approach)

12) Space Exploration Ethics:

- A) Approve risky human missions to other planets that have a high chance of death but could lead to monumental discoveries or colonization opportunities for humanity (utilitarian approach).
- B) Only allow space missions that meet stringent safety criteria, even if it significantly delays human advancement in space exploration (absolutist approach).