

1.1.1 Ethics and virtue ethics

Steps in Ethical Decision Making

How do people try to solve ethical issues by making the right decisions or choices? The answer lies in ethical decision making methods. There are five simple and inseparable steps to solving an ethical problem.

- 1. Identify the central ethical problem:** The first step is to undertake research, investigation, and study until the whole problem is understood.
- 2. Identify stakeholders and their interests:** Determine who will be affected by the decisions made. This can be anyone who is involved in the decision-making process.
- 3. Find a possible solution to the dilemma:** This step is to develop and solve the entire set of alternatives. The information gathered will be used to develop an alternative course of action.
- 4. Evaluate each solution:** Weigh the strengths and weaknesses of each option and select the alternative with the most strengths and weaknesses.
- 5. Select and justify the solution that best solves the dilemma:** This step makes a selection. You need to choose the best option.

Virtue ethics

Rather than focusing on following rules, the emphasis in virtue ethics is on developing oneself as a good person. For example, suppose you were given the opportunity to donate to a charity. Donating, according to virtue ethicists, is the type of action that a virtuous person would take. Another example is deciding whether to lie or tell the truth; virtue ethicists ask whether they want to be honest or dishonest. Virtue ethicists' value being a person who is honest, trustworthy, and generous, as well as other virtues that leads to a good life, over one's ethical duty or obligations.

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What is the first step in ethical decision making?

- a) Identify stakeholders
- b) Make a final decision
- c) Identify the central ethical problem
- d) Collect opinions from others

2. What is required in the first step of ethical decision making?

- a) Voting on the issue
- b) Research, investigation, and study
- c) Writing a report immediately
- d) Asking for advice only

3. Why is the first step important in ethical decision making?

- a) It avoids conflicts

- b) It ensures the whole problem is understood
- c) It gives a quick solution
- d) It eliminates stakeholders

4. What is the second step in ethical decision making?

- a) Make a final decision
- b) Identify stakeholders and their interests
- c) Set rules and regulations
- d) Ignore consequences

5. Who are considered stakeholders in ethical decision making?

- a) Only managers
- b) Only customers
- c) Anyone affected by the problem and its outcome
- d) Only government officials

6. What should be determined about stakeholders?

- a) Their age and background
- b) Their personal preferences only
- c) Who will be affected by the decisions and their interests
- d) Their economic status

7. Why is identifying stakeholders important?

- a) To know who benefits or suffers from the decision
- b) To save time

c) To ignore irrelevant opinions

d) To avoid doing research

8. What does the process of ethical decision making mainly try to achieve?

a) Solving ethical issues by making the right choices

b) Making profits

c) Avoiding responsibilities

d) Winning arguments

9. How many steps are mentioned as necessary for solving an ethical problem?

a) Three

b) Four

c) Five

d) Six

10. Which two steps are described in the passage provided?

a) Identifying stakeholders and creating solutions

b) Identifying the central problem and identifying stakeholders

c) Making decisions and evaluating outcomes

d) Studying cases and drawing conclusions

11. What is the main purpose of finding a possible solution to the dilemma?

A) To criticize the problem

B) To gather and solve a set of alternatives

C) To avoid making decisions

D) To eliminate weaknesses only

12. Which information is used to develop an alternative course of action?

- A) Opinions of others
- B) Myths and traditions
- C) Information gathered from the problem
- D) Only the final decision

13. What is the focus of evaluating each solution?

- A) Ignoring weaknesses
- B) Weighing strengths and weaknesses of options
- C) Choosing the quickest option
- D) Following the majority opinion

14. According to the passage, the best alternative is the one that:

- A) Has the most strengths and weaknesses
- B) Has the most strengths and fewer weaknesses
- C) Everyone agrees on
- D) Costs less effort

15. What does step 5 of the process require?

- A) Justify why no solution is possible
- B) Select and justify the best solution to the dilemma
- C) Create many possible dilemmas
- D) Compare people's opinions

16. In decision-making, justification means:

- A) Explaining why the selected option is the best

- B) Listing all possible options
- C) Avoiding responsibility
- D) Ignoring weaknesses of a choice

17. Which step involves making the final choice?

- A) Step 2
- B) Step 3
- C) Step 4
- D) Step 5

18. What is the main focus of virtue ethics?

- A) Following strict rules
- B) Developing oneself as a good person
- C) Obeying the law only
- D) Avoiding punishment

19. According to virtue ethics, donating to charity is considered:

- A) A duty imposed by law
- B) A meaningless action
- C) The type of action a virtuous person would take
- D) An obligation with no moral value

20. When deciding whether to lie or tell the truth, virtue ethicists focus on:

- A) Whether lying breaks a rule
- B) Whether the outcome is beneficial
- C) Whether they want to be honest or dishonest
- D) Whether others are watching

21. Which of the following virtues do virtue ethicists value most?

- A) Honesty, trustworthiness, and generosity
- B) Wealth, fame, and power
- C) Obedience, silence, and fear
- D) Success, intelligence, and beauty

22. Virtue ethics emphasizes living a good life through:

- A) Duties and obligations
- B) External rewards
- C) Developing personal character and virtues
- D) Avoiding mistakes

23. In virtue ethics, being virtuous is seen as more important than:

- A) Following rules or focusing only on consequences
- B) Developing good habits
- C) Learning from experience
- D) Seeking wisdom

24. Which statement best describes virtue ethics?

- A) It values outcomes above character
- B) It emphasizes duties and obligations first
- C) It focuses on being a good person with virtues that lead to a good life
- D) It ignores honesty and generosity