

ETHICS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS
Final Exam

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Part 1:

1) Define "ethics": (5 points)

2) Why is it important to study ethics? (5 points)

3) What did Aristotle mean when he said, "It is better to be ruled by laws, rather than men."?
(5 points)

4) Why is it not always ethical to follow the Golden Rule? Give an example. (5 points)

5) What is the Hippocratic Oath and why is it important? (5 points)

6) Some studies show that as much as 70% or more of students have admitted to cheating on school work and exams. How could this be a problem for society as a whole? (5 points)

Part 2: The following situations present dilemmas young people may face. Read each passage, then use notebook paper to answer the questions.

1. *The Hungry Thief* (14 points)

You've taken a job working as a clerk in a small grocery store. One day you spot a homeless man stealing a loaf of bread and a jar of peanut butter. Although these items are relatively inexpensive, you know the store's owner is struggling to keep his business running in the tough economy. What should you do?

2. *The Overworked Student* (14 points)

Your best friend has a part-time job to earn money to help his family. Because of the hours he works, he does not always have time to finish his homework or study. One afternoon he asks you if he can copy your work for a math assignment, because he needs some good grades or he may fail the class, and his boss has a policy that all student employees must maintain passing grades in school or they'll be fired. What should you do?

3. *The "Generous" Ticket Taker* (14 points)

You and your friends want to see the latest blockbuster movie. You arrive at the theater only to discover that Bob forgot his wallet and does not have money for a ticket. You and your friends do not have enough money to loan him, but the ticket taker, feeling sorry for Bob, offers to "let him in anyway." Should Bob accept the offer? What should you do if he does? What should you do if he doesn't?

4. *The Accidental Theft* (14 points)

While visiting a small gift shop in a coastal town on your vacation, your sister picks up and tries on several bangle bracelets. Eventually the two of you decide on your purchases and leave, heading for home. It is not until you've driven for several hours that your sister discovers she made a mistake. She'd forgotten to remove one of the bracelets, having already had on several of her own, and walked out of the store without paying for it. The bracelet only cost \$2. What should she do?

5. *The Best Candidate for the Job* (14 points)

You and two other people apply for the same position in a local book store. You spend some time talking with the other two candidates and discover that one is a single mother who is desperate for work. You know you are more qualified for the position because you have a high school diploma and she does not, and you don't need the money as much as she does. What should you do?

ETHICS ANSWER KEY

Part 1 – Each question is worth up to five points. Grade according to accuracy and completion.

1. Accept any form of the following:

- a system of moral principles
- the rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of human actions or a particular group, culture, etc.: medical ethics; Christian ethics.
- moral principles, as of an individual: His ethics forbade betrayal of a confidence.
- that branch of philosophy dealing with values relating to human conduct, with respect to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions and to the goodness and badness of the motives and ends of such actions.

(from www.dictionary.com)

2. Answers will vary, but may include:

We study ethics to help teach students about right from wrong and how to behave in society. To teach students how to decide what they should or should not do in any given situation.

3. "Laws appealed to reason, and the rule of law permitted men to be ruled by their own reason—to live life by deliberation and choice, the highest level of life available to the human species." (from Ethics in America 2)

4. Answers will vary, but may include:

"It never works as a formula for figuring out what is right, because how we want to be treated is not necessarily the hallmark of how we ought to treat others. If I wish someone had made me become an engineer that does not make it right for me to force my children to study engineering. If I want a woman I see across the street to kiss me, that does not give me moral license to run across the street to kiss her. If I want illegal drugs, that does not make it right to distribute illegal drugs. If I want to receive bribes or kickbacks, that does not make it right to tolerate a system of bribes or kickbacks." (from "The Point of Studying Ethics," Rick Garlikov.)

5. The Hippocratic Oath is an oath traditionally sworn by doctors to pledge they will behave ethically. It is an important guide for how physicians and doctors should treat their patients and work.

6. Answers may include: Students who cheat on school work and exams may not be fully prepared for the careers and fields in which they work. A doctor or engineer without the proper training/knowledge could put lives at risk. A builder may construct unsafe structures. Students who cheat as children and teens may also cheat in the workplace as adults.

Part 2 answers will vary but should demonstrate an ethical response/point-of-view. Each question is worth up to 14 points.

A note for question 5 – The Best Candidate for the Job: Ethically speaking, the best candidate for any job should be chosen based on merit, irrespective of “need.” Companies have the right to and should choose their employees based on how well they will represent the business. The moment exceptions are entered into the consideration, there will always be someone who is treated unfairly.

If, however, on this question, the student says he would opt to withdraw his job application and go elsewhere as his qualifications are stronger, this may be considered at least an honorable decision and some points should be awarded for the answer.

Point out to the student that this decision is no guarantee that the single mother will therefore get the job, as the manager may choose to hire the third applicant instead. Also, there is no saying that the same situation might not be occurring at any company where the student applies, unbeknownst to him. In other words, it could be, in the end, an “empty” gesture, though a well-intended, honorable one.