

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 3 - Justice and Economic Distribution

### Multiple Choice

1. Talk of justice and injustice typically focuses on:

- a. fairness, equality, desert, and rights
- b. reason, reflection, deliberation, and fairness
- c. feeling, sentiment, happiness, and equality
- d. fairness, impartiality, duty, and rights

ANSWER: a

2. Aristotle's formal principle of justice states,

- a. from each according to his or her ability, to each according to his or her need.
- b. similar cases must be treated alike except where there is some relevant difference.
- c. all people are to be treated the same in every situation.
- d. from each according to his or her ability, to each according to his or her merit.

ANSWER: b

3. According to Mill's utilitarianism

- a. rights are certain moral rules, the observance of which is of the utmost importance for the long-run, overall maximization of happiness.
- b. there are no moral rights.
- c. the rights possessed by human beings remain unchanged for all times and places.
- d. rights are those rules that a majority of the society would agree to behind the "veil of ignorance."

ANSWER: a

4. From John Stuart Mill's viewpoint,

- a. philosophical concern with justice began in the 19th century.
- b. questions of morality form a subset of questions of justice.
- c. justice is a moral standard independent of the principle of utility.
- d. only the utilitarian standard can best resolve conflicts between competing principles of justice.

ANSWER: d

5. Many utilitarians would argue that

- a. increased worker participation in industrial life is beneficial.
- b. social utility is irrelevant to issues of justice.
- c. there is already sufficiently equal distribution of income.
- d. the free trade and laissez-faire view of Adam Smith best promote the total social good.

ANSWER: a

6. In association with labor and capital, Mill had contrasting views of

- a. freedom of speech.
- b. farmers' markets profit.
- c. welfare.
- d. profit sharing.

ANSWER: d

7. What utilitarian identifies as rights are really

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- a. creative alternatives.      b. positive rationalizations.
- c. certain moral rules.      d. ethical violations.

ANSWER: c

8. Who is more likely to be sympathetic with the idea of reducing the disparities of income in society?

- a. Utilitarians      b. Liberals
- c. Robin Hood      d. egalitarians

ANSWER: a

9. According to libertarianism,

- a. there are no natural, Lockean rights.
- b. we have a basic right to assistance from others.
- c. people should not attempt to coerce others.
- d. happiness takes priority over other moral concerns.

ANSWER: c

10. In *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, Robert Nozick advocates

- a. Libertarianism.
- b. Kantianism.
- c. Utilitarianism.
- d. Egoism.

ANSWER: a

11. Nozick's libertarian theory proposes

- a. libertarians endorse utilitarianism's concern for total social well-being.
- b. pleasure takes priority over any other moral concern.
- c. libertarians generally agree that liberty allows only a "night-watchman" state.
- d. if a person comes into possession of a holding through a legitimate transfer, then, morally speaking, she or he *deserves* that holding.

ANSWER: c

12. According to Locke,

- a. individuals are morally entitled to take other's property.
- b. property is a moral right.
- c. individuals are not morally entitled to the products of their labor.
- d. property acquisition is a duty.

ANSWER: b

13. The first principle of Nozick's entitlement theory concerns the original acquisition of

- a. morals.      b. holdings.
- c. case law.      d. the crown.

ANSWER: b

14. In Nozick's example of Wilt Chamberlain, he argues that other theories of economic justice inevitably fail to respect

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people's

- a. liberty.
- b. power of choice.
- c. skills.
- d. height.

ANSWER: a

15. To the libertarians, their concept of liberty includes a commitment to

- a. freedom of ideas.
- b. freedom of speech.
- c. private property.
- d. happiness.

ANSWER: c

16. According to John Rawls, people in "the original position" choose the principles of justice solely on the basis of

- a. social utility.
- b. their religion.
- c. self-interest.
- d. their intuitive knowledge of the natural rights of all human beings.

ANSWER: c

17. According to John Rawls,

- a. people in the original position choose the principles on the basis of self-interest.
- b. in the original position, people must have full and complete knowledge.
- c. justice forbids any social or economic inequalities.
- d. liberty is of little or no importance compared to equality.

ANSWER: a

18. The veil of ignorance proposes that

- a. those in the original position are supposed to choose principles on the basis of self-interest, agreement seems unlikely.
- b. one group would be supportive of another group benefiting even though the rules are different.
- c. people are fully knowledgeable about themselves or situation allowing them to have a partial or biased point of view.
- d. agreement is difficult to attain.

ANSWER: a

19. The veil of ignorance demands people in the original position to be

- a. difficult to come to agreement.
- b. impartial.
- c. biased.
- d. forgiving.

ANSWER: b

20. Primary social goods include

- a. poverty.
- b. freedom of religion.
- c. status.
- d. leisure time activities.

ANSWER: c

21. John Rawls' Theory of Justice lays within which type of tradition?

- a. All for one and one for all.
- b. Principled living.

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- c. Feudal society.                      d. Social contract.

ANSWER: d

22. The difference principle of Rawls includes

- a. we are all created equal.
- b. individuals are justified by working for the benefit of the least advantaged.
- c. we all deserve the same.
- d. some do deserve more than others.

ANSWER: b

23. Rawls rejects utilitarianism because

- a. he saw it as a threat.
- b. it might permit an unfair distribution of burdens and benefits.
- c. governments wanted it.
- d. it values moral purity.

ANSWER: b

24. Eminent domain is the ancient right of government to take what from an individual?

- a. food                      b. clothing
- c. liberties                d. property

ANSWER: d

25. The Supreme Court gave decision making power for Eminent domain to the

- a. feds.                      b. states and local communities
- c. townships.            d. parents.

ANSWER: b

True / False

26. The United States leads the world in executive pay.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

27. The distribution of income in Germany and Japan is far more unequal than that in the United States.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

28. Thanks to changes in the tax system, in recent years income in the United States has become more equal.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

29. Many philosophers believe (as Aristotle did) that we are required, as a formal principle of justice, to treat similar cases

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alike except where there is some relevant difference.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

30. Justice is frequently held to require that our treatment of people reflect their fundamental moral equality.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

31. Distributive justice concerns the morally proper distribution of social benefits and burdens.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

32. According to the text, if an act is deemed fair, it will also be just.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

33. For utilitarians, justice is an independent moral standard distinct from their general principle.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

34. Utilitarians are likely to be sympathetic to the argument that steps should be taken to reduce the great disparities of income that characterize our society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

35. In his *Principles of Political Economy*, J.S. Mill argued for the desirability of breaking down the sharp and hostile division between the producers or workers, on the one hand, and the capitalists or owners, on the other hand.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

36. According to Mill, to say that I have a right to something is to say that I have a valid claim on society to protect me in the possession of that thing, either by force of law or through education and opinion.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

37. The phrase "the declining marginal utility of money" means that successive additions to one's income produce, on average, less happiness or welfare than did earlier additions.

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- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

38. According to Robert Nozick, the basic moral rights possessed by all human beings are both negative and natural.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

39. According to libertarianism, liberty is the prime value, and justice consists in permitting each to live as he or she pleases, free from the interference of others.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

40. Libertarians would find it immoral and unjust to coerce people to give food or money to the starving.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

41. Libertarians reject inheritance as a legitimate means of acquiring wealth.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

42. Robert Nozick uses the Wilt Chamberlain story to show the importance of economic re-distribution.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

43. Libertarianism involves a commitment to leaving market relations—buying, selling, and other exchanges—totally unrestricted.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

44. According to Robert Nozick, property rights exist prior to any social arrangements and are morally antecedent to any legislative decisions that a society might make.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

45. Rawls's theory of distributive justice is a form of utilitarianism.

- a. True
- b. False

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ANSWER: False

46. According to John Rawls, people in the original position do not know what social position or status they hold in society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

47. According to the "maximin" rule, you should select the alternative under which the worst that could happen to you is better than the worst that could happen to you under any other alternative.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

48. John Rawls's second principle of justice states that insofar as inequalities are permitted -- that is, insofar as it is compatible with justice for some jobs or positions to bring greater rewards than others -- these positions must be open to all.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

49. Bottling water in Michigan, according to "Battling over Bottled Water", is problematic in part due to the question of what should be considered "reasonable use" of water.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

50. In "Poverty in America", the case study states that Americans favor structural explanations of poverty over individualistic explanations of poverty.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

#### Subjective Short Answer

51. Talk of justice and injustice typically focuses on several related moral ideas. Explain what they are.

ANSWER: See referenced section.

52. Explain the relationship between justice and fairness.

ANSWER: See referenced section.

53. Explain the concept of "distributive justice" and give one of the rival principles discussed as a basis of distribution.

ANSWER: See referenced section.

54. According to John Stuart Mill, what does it mean to say that a person has a right to something?

ANSWER: See referenced section.

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55. What do economists mean by "the declining marginal utility of money" and how does Brandt use the concept to argue for greater economic equality?

ANSWER: See referenced section.

56. Briefly explain the basic principles of Nozick's entitlement theory.

ANSWER: See referenced section.

57. Define "Lockean rights" in your own words.

ANSWER: See referenced section.

58. If the market is left without regulation, will it eventually reward those that deserve it?

ANSWER: See referenced section.

59. What does Rawls mean by the original position and the veil of ignorance?

ANSWER: See referenced section.

60. What is the "maximin" rule for making decisions and what role does it play in Rawls's argument?

ANSWER: See referenced section.

#### Essay

61. Based on the nature of justice, choose a proposed political viewpoint and explain how just it is.

ANSWER: See referenced section.

62. Apply the Libertarian view to the poverty in America to justify or expose its value.

ANSWER: See referenced section.

63. Explain what Robert Nozick would say to Bill Gates concerning his accumulation of wealth. Apply his proponents to the situation.

ANSWER: See referenced section.

64. How would Rawls view an inheritance from a family member?

ANSWER: See referenced section.

65. Can wealth legitimately be spread equally among the people of a nation based on the philosophers you have been introduced to?

ANSWER: See referenced sections.