

College Admission

Ethics-in-America
DSST Ethics in America Exam (Dantes Subject Standardized Tests)

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Question: 1

Under what circumstances would Rawls believe that economic inequality would be justified?

- A. It is essential as an incentive for greater production, increases the size of the economic pie, and enables everyone to get a bigger slice of it.
- B. Only the truly deserving are rewarded.
- C. It maintains the status quo and provides stability.
- D. People learn to achieve happiness whether or not they have economic resources.

Answer: A

Explanation:

It is essential as an incentive for greater production, increases the size of the economic pie, and enables everyone to get a bigger slice of it. According to Rawls, inequality benefits everyone if the ultimate result is that everyone gets a greater share with the inequality than they would gain without it.

Question: 2

According to Rawls, equality of opportunity means:

- A. Individuals always have the opportunity, under any circumstances to achieve their goals if they apply themselves.
- B. People with similar abilities and skills should have similar life opportunities.
- C. Social and economic inequalities have no bearing one's ability to advance in life.
- D. People born into a certain economic class have the same opportunity to achieve the level of success of those of the same economic class.

Answer: B

Explanation:

People with similar abilities and skills should have similar life chances. Rawls believed that equal opportunity is compromised by the extent to which people are either advantaged or disadvantaged by their environment, "...their initial place in the social system, that is, irrespective of the income class into which they are born."

Question: 3

Who said, "Taxation of earnings from labor is on a par with forced labor."?

- A. Marx
- B. Jefferson
- C. Thoreau
- D. Nozick

Answer: D

Explanation:

Nozick believed that people have a moral right to not be taxed for the purpose of reducing economic inequality, and this right should not be superseded by the goal of creating equality of outcome.

Question: 4

Robin Hood's main philosophy could be seen as:

- A. Heteronomy.
- B. Economic redistribution.
- C. Meta-ethics.
- D. Collectivism.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Economic redistribution occurs when wealth or income is taken from those who have a great deal of it and given to those who have very little.

Question: 5

Rousseau's idea of equality would lead him to embrace:

- A. Slavery.
- B. The belief that the degrees of power and wealth should be the same for all.
- C. Communism.
- D. The idea that extremes of wealth are bad for society.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Extremes of wealth are bad for society. Rousseau believed that the enormous wealth of some may lead to the abuse of those without wealth and, ultimately, the destruction of freedom. In addition, if there are extremes of poverty, the poor may become so dependent on those with more resources that they lose their freedom. Rousseau maintained that both extremes are bad for society.

Question: 6

Which statement best describes Rousseau's central tenet regarding freedom?

- A. It cannot be sustained without a certain degree of equality.
- B. It is not possible to achieve in an open society
- C. It undermines economic growth.
- D. It is not a factor in achieving equality.

Answer: A

Explanation:

It cannot be sustained without a certain degree of equality. According to Rousseau, too much inequality destroys or undermines freedom.

Question: 7

Thucydides has been called the father of the school of political realism and scientific history for all of the following reasons, except:

- A. He was one of the first to describe international relations as anarchic and immoral.
- B. He had strict standards of evidence gathering and cause and effect analysis of events without reference to divine intervention.
- C. He wrote The Art of War.
- D. He viewed the relations between nations as based on might rather than right.

Answer: C

Explanation:

He wrote The Art of War. This text is a Chinese military treatise that was written by Sun Tzu in the 8th century BC.

Question: 8

Under what circumstances did Plato approved suicide?

- A. The gods sent a sign or "compulsion".
- B. It is carried out after a sentence of the state.
- C. It is the result of an intolerable disgrace.
- D. It is committed without the gods' permission.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The gods sent a sign or "compulsion." Suicide was wrong if it was done without their permission or demand. However, Plato did not delineate the circumstances under which the gods

would permit or require suicide.

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