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Quiz David Copp: Experiments, Intuitions, and Methodology in Moral and Political Theory

○ one correct answer · ▢ one or more correct answers

1. At the beginning of this course you were introduced to the distinction between the "positive" and the "negative" program of experimental philosophy. Which of these programs does the challenge belong to that Copp is mainly addressing in this text?

- ○ a. both positive and negative program
- ○ b. neither positive nor negative program
- ○ c. positive program
- ○ d. negative program

2. In the two trolley dilemmas described by Copp one can save the lives of five persons at the expense of the live of one person by…

- ▢ a. calling the trolley-police which will arrest the five persons for being on the tracks
- ▢ b. throwing a switch that will divert a trolley onto a different set of tracks
- ▢ c. pushing a fat man off a footbridge to fall onto and block the tracks
- ▢ d. shouting a warning to a person who is on the trolley
- ▢ e. jumping in front of the trolley
- ▢ f. speaking a specific Christian prayer for the sake of the five persons

3. Which moral principle has been evoked by philosophers to explain people's differing responses to the above two versions of the trolley dilemma?

- ○ a. The action/omission principle (roughly: if an action and an omission cause the same harm the action is less permissible)
- ○ b. The principle of double effect (roughly: an action with bad consequences is permissible if these consequences are not intended)
- ○ c. The framing effect (roughly: people evaluate options differently depending on whether they are framed positively or negatively)
- ○ d. The abstract/concrete effect (roughly: abstract scenarios evoke different moral intuitions than concrete scenarios)

4. According to Copp, what are the most relevant research objectives of experimental philosophy when it comes to assessing the Methodology?

- ☐ a. study how general psychological theories and observations bear on people's moral judgements
- ☐ b. study the mental processes underlying people's moral judgements
- ☐ c. study disagreement about and correlations with people's moral judgements
- ☐ d. study (cultural) variations in people's moral judgements
- ☐ e. study the extent to which people's moral judgements involve corresponding motivations for actions

5. Some experimental philosophers and psychologists (such as Joshua Greene) have explained people's differing responses to the two versions of the trolley dilemma by these versions invoking differing degrees of emotional activity in people.

- ○ True
- ○ False

6. What are, according to Copp, the three general goals of an account of the methodology of a discipline?

- ☐ a. justify the ultimate goal of the discipline
- ☐ b. describe the research that is done in the discipline
- ☐ c. specify the proximate goal of the discipline
- ☐ d. show that research is effective in reaching proximate goal
- ☐ e. suggest specific designs for experiments and observations

7. Copp claims that the proximate goal of moral and political philosophy is to characterize our moral sensibility as it actually is.

- ○ True
- ○ False

8. Suppose I make the considered judgement that action A is wrong. I then develop a moral principle that is consistent with (entails) my judgement that action A is wrong. I am willing to revise or give up this principle. But I am not willing to revise or give up my considered judgement. Is the method that I am applying the method of reflective equilibrium?

- ○ a. Yes
- ○ b. No

9. Suppose I find it intrinsically plausible that torturing puppies for fun in wrong. I do so because I believe that (a) puppies are sentient beings, i.e., can feel pleasure and pain, and (b) causing pain without any good reason is wrong. In Copp's terminology, could it make sense to say that I have an "intuition" that torturing puppies for fun is wrong?

- ○ a. Yes
- ○ b. No

10. Copp argues that the Methodology might be defensible even if the judgements and principles that it justifies are such that we do not have any reason to believe them to be true (as a realist goal would require). This is supposed to be the case because:

- ○ a. moral and political philosophy are to be modelled after science, and the Methodology is used and justified in science
- ○ b. there are no (objective) truths in moral and political philosophy
- ○ c. the Methodology can guide moral and political philosophers in worthwhile ways even if there are no (objective) truths about their subject matter

11. In the last section of his text (Section 6) Copp defends the methodology of moral and political philosophy, as he understands it, against objections from experimental philosophers. He argues both that even considering these objections it is likely that the Rawlsian goal is achievable, and that the methodology is effective in achieving this goal. Read through this section once again. Then try to come up with objections against Copp's defends, i.e., take the side of those experimental philosophers who have criticized appeals to intuition in moral and political philosophy. (< 400 words)