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Quiz Matthew Lindauer: Experimental Philosophy and the Fruitfulness of Normative Concepts

○ one correct answer · ▢ one or more correct answers

1. What is commonly understood by the „negative program“ of experimental philosophy?

- ○ a. Empirical evidence that has been gathered for specific philosophical purposes is unreliable in answering philosophical questions
- ○ b. Traditional philosophical evidence (such as appeals to a priori intuitions) is unreliable in answering philosophical questions
- ○ c. Empirical evidence that has been gathered for independent scientific purposes is unreliable in answering philosophical questions

2. Suppose we find that a particular normative concept is not helpful in solving any practical problems. According to whose view does this speak against employing the concept?

- ○ a. Aristotle
- ○ b. Plato

3. In Lindauer’s usage, the term „fruitfulness“ applies to the extent to which normative concepts function well in certain practical roles (help to solve practical problems).

- ○ True
- ○ False

4. What kind of empirical facts determine the fruitfulness of normative concepts?

- ☐ a. facts about the extent to which the concepts prevent certain actions
- ☐ b. facts about the extent to which the concepts represent actual properties in the world
- ☐ c. facts about the extent to which people can reach consensus on the concepts
- ☐ d. facts about the extent to which the concepts can guide our actions
- ☐ e. facts about the extent to which the concepts motivate certain actions
- ☐ f. facts about the extent to which the concepts are coherent with other normative concepts
- ☐ g. facts about the extent to which the concepts show resilience to e.g., bias

5. Lindauer distinguishes between intervention-based and non-intervention-based methods of examining the fruitfulness of normative concepts. Think back of the study by Frohlich, Oppenheimer and Eavy on distributive justice behind the veil of ignorance. What kind of method did this study use?

- ○ a. non-intervention-based
- ○ b. intervention-based

6. Suppose a state considers a certain policy, say, about how to reduce its CO2 emissions. Then it turns out that this policy is not feasible, i.e., it cannot be implemented in the near future (because technologies are not yet advanced enough, citizens would not be sufficiently motivated to comply with it, etc.). According to which approach does this lack of feasibility speak against the policy's justness?

- ○ a. non-ideal theory
- ○ b. ideal theory

7. Lindauer argues that a substantial proportion of philosophers and positions should accept his claim that fruitfulness is relevant to the analysis of normative concepts. These include…

- ☐ a. ideal theorists
- ☐ b. robust realists
- ☐ c. Kantian constructivists
- ☐ d. Korsgaard
- ☐ e. moral internalists

8. Imagine a normative theory that is widely judged to be incoherent (i.e., it involves claims that contradict or at least do not support each other) while at the same time being fruitful. According to Lindauer, we would still have reason to accept this theory.

- ○ True
- ○ False

9. Solving a practical problem only increases the credentials of a normative theory if the problem

- ☐ a. bears some relation to the theory's subject matter
- ☐ b. is solved in a way that is acceptable (e.g., not by domination)
- ☐ c. is solved in the most effective way
- ☐ d. is of global importance

10. According to Carnap, in defining normative concepts all that we should be doing is capturing the conceptual intuitions of lay people. A proper analysis must not evaluate, refine, specify, etc. these intuitions.

- ○ True
- ○ False

11. According to Haslanger, if an analysis of the concept of gender does not help to tackle gender injustices in the real world, this provides reason to reject this analysis.

- ○ True
- ○ False

12. Lindauer's argument for the relevance of experimental philosophy to the analysis of normative concepts is premised on the value of fruitfulness. In other words, he suggests that when we are developing theories in ethics and political philosophy we should not only be concerned with whether these theories match reality or satisfy some other theoretical desiderata; we should also be concerned about what these theories do in the world (whether they help us or are useful, practically speaking). Do you think that this is plausible? Please state your view and provide reasons for it. (< 400 words)