Sample Examination Questions
Biomedical Ethics
Keith Burgess-Jackson
14 February 2017

This examination has two parts. The first part consists of 10 true-false exercises, each of which is worth one point. The second part consists of 30 multiple-choice exercises, each of which is worth three points. The examination itself is therefore worth 100 points. You have 75 minutes to complete it, so budget your time accordingly.

**Part I: True-False Exercises.** Please circle the letter “T” (true) or the letter “F” (false). If a passage contains more than one proposition and any one of them is false, the passage as a whole is false. If a proposition is not completely true, it is false (one point each).

T or F: 1. According to Sarah Conly, there are two justifications of rights claims: need and authority.

T or F: 2. Carl Cohen believes that nonhuman animals have moral rights, but not legal rights.

T or F: 3. Cohen says that rights entail obligations, but that obligations do not entail rights. (In other words, it’s impossible for individual x to have a right without someone other than x having an obligation, but it’s possible for individual x to have an obligation without someone other than x having a right.)

**Part II: Multiple-Choice Exercises.** Please circle the letter that corresponds to the correct (or in some cases the best) answer (three points each).

4. Which question does Sarah Conly address in her article?
   a. Whether there are any absolute rights.
   b. Whether there is a right to health care.
   c. Whether preventive care is less expensive than reactive treatment.
   d. Whether there is a duty to eat properly and exercise responsibly.

5. What, according to Conly, is wrong with leaving it to people to make their own lifestyle decisions?
   a. People don’t know what’s in their interests.
   b. People know what’s in their interests but don’t care.
   c. People lack free will.
   d. It’s unrealistic; people suffer from lack of self-control and various cognitive biases that keep them from making good decisions.

6. Which of the following claims does Carl Cohen not believe?
   a. Some humans, such as newborns, the senile, and the severely retarded, lack rights.
   b. Humans have obligations to animals.
   c. Some animals (perhaps not all) are sentient.
   d. No animals are moral agents.

Answers:

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. b
5. d
6. a