

The Salazar Ethical Beliefs Inventory¹

Answer these questions and follow the scoring sheet to determine your preferred ethical theory.

1. Your father dies and leaves a will that donates his assets to the NRA (National Rifle Association). You know that the money could be used to save several hundreds of lives if it had been donated instead to the Save the Children Fund. You have the opportunity to change it without anyone knowing. Assuming that your father was rational when he wrote the will and never reconsidered it, should you change the will?
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.
2. You believe that animals have rights and your friend disagrees with you. In which way(s) can you determine who is right?
 - (a) Investigate whether animals have intrinsic value.
 - (b) Weigh the pros and cons associated with giving or observing animals rights.
 - (c) Right? What's 'right'? There isn't anything that is strictly right or wrong; it's all a matter of opinion.
3. If all persons were only interested in surfing, and no other talents were necessary for human flourishing, would surfing be the only thing of value?
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.
4. You know that your friend's boyfriend has been cheating on her. You think she will be better off if she knows and you tell her. She becomes depressed and commits suicide. Are you morally blameworthy for her death?
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.
5. A shopkeeper can either cheat his customers or behave honestly. There are four possible reasons for him to behave honestly. Please select the reason(s) that you think are morally praiseworthy.
 - (a) The shopkeeper behaves honestly because he will be rewarded with more repeat business.
 - (b) The shopkeeper behaves honestly because he likes his customers.
 - (c) The shopkeeper behaves honestly because he is an honest person.
 - (d) The shopkeeper behaves honestly because he knows that it is the right thing to do.
6. Please select all that apply. A person should be punished or imprisoned because:
 - (a) He/she deserves it.
 - (b) He/she is dangerous to society.
 - (c) It will improve her/his character.
 - (d) It will rectify the wrong committed.
7. Even if universal healthcare will improve the well-being of most of society, it should not be provided if it requires people to be taxed who don't want to be taxed.
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.

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Scoring

Circle the letter [(a), (b), (c), (d)] that you answered.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. (a) U
(b) D | 4. (a) U
(b) D | 6. (a) D
(b) U
(c) V
(d) D |
| 2. (a) R
(b) R, C
(c) S | 5. (a) S,U
(b) S
(c) V
(d) D,U, V | 7. (a) I
(b) D, U |
| 3. (a) C, S
(b) R | | |

Preference Chart

Total the number of times you answered a question with these letters indicated and write it in the chart by ‘# of times you answered’ and under the appropriate letter.

	<u>R</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>I</u>
# of times you answered							
# of times letter appears	3	2	4	6	3	6	1

Division Method

To determine your preference, divide the # of times you answered one letter by the # of times it appears. Whichever divided number is highest (closest to 1) indicates your preference.

What your score means

Metaethics: Are you a Realist (R), Constructivist (C), or Subjectivist (S)?

If you answered (a) to question (2) and (b) to (3) you are a Realist.

If you answered (a) to question (3) and did not answer (c) to (2) you are a Constructivist.

If you answered (c) to question (2) you are a Subjectivist.

(If you have mixed answers to these questions, use the preference chart and division method explained on the scoring sheet.)

Normative Ethics: Are you a Utilitarian (U), Virtue Ethicist (V), Duty-Based Deontologist (D) or Rights-Based Deontologist (I)?

To determine your score here, use the preference chart and division method.

Note: Are you consistent? Certain metaethical theories preclude your choice of normative theory and vice versa. For example, if you are a subjectivist, no normative theory will be ‘correct’. If you are a utilitarian, you must be a realist. If your scores indicate that you have one of these inconsistent preferences, try to determine which theory is more clearly true and eliminate from your preferences the inconsistent theory.