

Three Ethics Reasoning Assessment (TERA)

Lene Arnett Jensen, Clark University

ljensen@clarku.edu

This is a survey of your moral views. Please read the questions and instructions carefully. The instructions below are given in capital letters and are underlined.

1)

Do you think that generally it is morally wrong or not wrong to divorce? If you have difficulty in deciding, please circle the answer that indicates the position you most agree with.

a) Yes, it is morally wrong (**GO TO QUESTION 2**)

b) No, it is not morally wrong (**GO TO QUESTION 3**)

2)

If you think any of the following are exceptions to divorce being wrong, please circle all that apply:

a) Adultery

b) Physical abuse of spouse

c) Mental abuse of a spouse

d) Other: _____

2) Continued

Following is a list of statements that people sometimes make in order to explain why divorce is morally wrong. Please read all of these statements carefully, then circle the statements that you think are true and the most important. You must circle at least one statement, but you may not circle more than four statements.

a) Divorce is morally wrong because it is very emotionally damaging to the husband and wife, for example, they may lose their ability to trust others.

b) Divorce is morally wrong because it hampers your relationship with God, you can no longer expect all of his blessings.

c) Divorce is morally wrong because it is harmful to children and to families, and this leads to societal problems related to crime, welfare, and so forth.

d) Divorce is morally wrong because it is very emotionally damaging to the children, for example, they often feel abandoned.

e) Divorce is morally wrong because it causes economic hardship on one or both of the divorcees.

f) Divorce is morally wrong because the Bible states that “what God has joined together, let no man put asunder.”

g) Other: _____

(GO TO QUESTION 4)

3)

If you think there are any particular cases where divorce is wrong, please indicate what these are:

- a) _____
 b) _____

3) Continued

Following is a list of statements that people sometimes make in order to explain why divorce is not morally wrong. Please read all of these statements carefully, then circle the statements that you think are true and the most important. You must circle at least one statement, but you may not circle more than four statements.

a) Divorce is not morally wrong because if parents are forced to stay together, they will be poor role models to their children.

b) Divorce is not morally wrong because to stay in an unhappy marriage is destructive to the husband and wife, their emotional well-being and sense of self-worth.

c) Divorce is not morally wrong because while the Bible says to avoid divorce if possible, it does not state that two people must stay together under all circumstances. So if two people are incompatible, divorce is justified.

d) Divorce is not morally wrong because the husband and wife have the right to make their own decision.

e) Divorce is not morally wrong because it is not wrong in the eyes of God.

f) Divorce is not morally wrong because it is better for the children not to see their parents being unhappy together.

g) Other: _____

(GO TO QUESTION 4)

4)

Do you think that generally it is morally wrong or not wrong for terminally ill persons to end their life through suicide? If you have difficulty in deciding, please circle the position you most agree with.

a) Yes, it is morally wrong **(GO TO QUESTION 5)**

b) No, it is not morally wrong **(GO TO QUESTION 6)**

5)

Following is a list of statements that people sometimes make in order to explain why suicide in the case of terminal illness is morally wrong. Please read all of these statements carefully, then circle the statements that you think are true and the most important. You must circle at least one statement, but you may not circle more than four statements.

a) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is morally wrong because even a person who is ill may still experience some happiness.

b) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is morally wrong because there are many situations where people who have been in hard times have caused others to reflect about their lives. Someone with a terminal illness might help other people change their lives for the better.

c) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is morally wrong because the Bible says that, "Thou shalt not kill" which includes not killing oneself.

d) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is morally wrong because contrary to expectations you might suddenly get better, and if you commit suicide, you will miss out on the rest of your life.

e) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is morally wrong because it cheapens life, and once society goes down that path there is no knowing where it will end in terms of whose lives will be dispensable.

f) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is morally wrong because even when we are ill God still has a purpose for us.

g) Other: _____

(GO TO QUESTION 7)

6)

Following is a list of statements that people sometimes make in order to explain why suicide in the case of terminal illness is not morally wrong. Please read all of these statements carefully, then circle the statements that you think are true and the most important. You must circle at least one statement, but you may not circle more than four statements.

a) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is not morally wrong because it puts an end to the physical pain and suffering that the person is likely to experience.

b) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is not morally wrong because it is emotionally damaging to the family to watch a loved one suffer and grow weaker and more incapacitated.

c) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is not morally wrong because it is not wrong in the eyes of God.

d) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is not morally wrong because God will not make a judgment on you and punish you for that.

e) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is not morally wrong because it is a financial burden on society to keep someone alive who will soon die.

f) Suicide in the case of terminal illness is not morally wrong because a person has the right to make that decision.

g) Other: _____

(GO TO QUESTION 7)

7)

Excluding the case of terminal illness, do you think that generally it is morally wrong or not wrong for persons to end their life through suicide? If you have difficulty in deciding, please circle the answer that indicates the position you most agree with.

a) Yes, it is morally wrong **(GO TO QUESTION 8)**

b) No, it is not morally wrong **(GO TO QUESTION 9)**

8)

If you think any of the following are exceptions to suicide being wrong, please circle all that apply:

- a) Someone has completely lost control of their actions and mind and commits suicide in such as state.
- b) Other: _____

8) Continued

Following is a list of statements that people sometimes make in order to explain why suicide is morally wrong. Please read all of these statements carefully, then circle the statements that you think are true and the most important. You must circle at least one statement, but you may not circle more than four statements.

a) Suicide is morally wrong because we have a duty to glorify God and to serve Him, and you are not doing that by ending your own life.

b) Suicide is morally wrong because you ought to develop your resources, skills, and personality to the fullest.

c) Suicide is morally wrong because you have responsibilities to the people around you, such as your spouse, children, friends, colleagues, and so forth.

d) Suicide is morally wrong because of the emotional harm it causes those people left behind, such as family and friends.

e) Suicide is morally wrong because the Bible speaks of trusting God and seeking God in times of trouble; suicide shows a lack of trust in God.

f) Suicide is morally wrong because the person is going to miss out on a whole lot of things that are worthwhile.

g) Other: _____

(GO TO QUESTION 10)

9)

If you think there are any particular cases where suicide is wrong, please indicate what these are:

- a) _____
 b) _____

9) Continued

Following is a list of statements that people sometimes make in order to explain why suicide is not morally wrong. Please read all of these statements carefully, then circle the statements that you think are true and the most important. You must circle at least one statement, but you may not circle more than four statements.

a) Suicide is not morally wrong because the individual has the right to make that decision.

b) Suicide is not morally wrong because it does not threaten the stability of society, the way violent acts against others do.

c) Suicide is not morally wrong, in fact it shows a tremendous amount of courage to be able to end your own life.

d) Suicide is not morally wrong because it is not a sin for which a person will suffer God's punishment.

e) Suicide is not morally wrong because while family and friends will suffer they will be able to overcome that.

f) Suicide is not morally wrong because it is not wrong in the eyes of God.

g) Other: _____

(GO TO QUESTION 10)

10)

Do you think that generally it is morally wrong or not wrong to have an abortion? If you have difficulty in deciding, please circle the answer that indicates the position you most agree with.

- a) Yes, it is morally wrong (**GO TO QUESTION 11**)
 b) No, it is not morally wrong (**GO TO QUESTION 12**)
-

11)

If you think any of the following are exceptions to abortion being wrong, please circle all that apply:

- a) The mother's life is endangered by continuing the pregnancy
 b) The pregnancy is a result of incest
 c) The pregnancy is a result of rape
 d) The fetus is seriously deformed
 e) It is a teen pregnancy
 f) Other: _____

11) Continued

Following is a list of statements that people sometimes make in order to explain why abortion is morally wrong. Please read all of these statements carefully, then circle the statements that you think are true and the most important. You must circle at least one statement, but you may not circle more than four statements.

- a) Abortion is morally wrong because society loses someone who could have been a productive and contributing person.
- b) Abortion is morally wrong because the baby has a right to life.
- c) Abortion is morally wrong because of the psychological consequences to the woman. She will have a sense of loss and suffer emotionally.
- d) Abortion is morally wrong because the Bible tells us that "Thou shalt not kill."
- e) Abortion is morally wrong because only God can give life and only God is allowed to take life. It is not our place to take life.
- f) Abortion is morally wrong because once the child is conceived, you have a duty as a parent to care for and protect the child.

g) Other: _____

(GO TO QUESTION 13)

12)

If you think there are any particular cases where abortion is wrong, please indicate what these are:

- a) Abortion is used as a method of birth control
- b) The fetus is viable (about 6 months or more since conception)
- c) The abortion is wanted because the fetus is of a particular sex
- d) Other: _____

12) Continued

Following is a list of statements that people sometimes make in order to explain why abortion is not morally wrong. Please read all of these statements carefully, then circle the statements that you think are true and the most important. You must circle at least one statement, but you may not circle more than four statements.

- a) Abortion is not morally wrong because the woman has a right to decide what happens to her body.
- b) Abortion is not morally wrong because unwanted children increase society's problems.
- c) Abortion is not morally wrong because it is not wrong in the eyes of God.
- d) Abortion is not morally wrong because to have a child may put a burden upon a woman, in terms of her education, career, finances, and so forth.
- e) Abortion is not morally wrong because if a child is unwanted, the child is less likely to receive proper nurture and care.
- f) Abortion is not morally wrong because God will not punish you for that.
- g) Other: _____

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY

Coding

Each moral judgment (generally right or generally wrong) is followed by:

- Options where respondents can indicate exceptions to their overall or general moral judgment (except for suicide in the case of terminal illness).
- Six moral reasons, with two from each of the Three Ethics of Autonomy, Community, and Divinity (randomized).

AUTONOMY:

2a, 2e, 3b, 3d, 5a, 5d, 6a, 6f, 8b, 8f, 9a, 9c, 11b, 11c, 12a, 12b.

COMMUNITY:

2c, 2d, 3a, 3f, 5b, 5e, 6b, 6e, 8c, 8d, 9b, 9e, 11a, 11f, 12b, 12e.

DIVINITY:

2b, 2f, 3c, 3e, 5c, 5f, 6c, 6d, 8a, 8e, 9d, 9f, 11d, 11e, 12c, 12f.