

Research Ethics Issues Assessment Results for Blair Gemmer

100% (100 points correct out of 100 possible)

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Questions you answered incorrectly are highlighted in **red**.

Question 1: Compliance refers to investigators and institutions following the rules set out for them. It is important to know the rules for compliance for research, just as it is important to know the laws for which one can be held accountable by society. But, it is equally important that individuals think about how to best meet their role-related responsibilities and that institutions consider how best to encourage research that is praiseworthy, rather than simply encouraging research that is not blameworthy.

Correct Answer: True

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: It is often easy to substitute "being compliant" with "being ethical." As a researcher, you should be aware not only of actions that keep you in compliance, but also aware of attitudes and actions that are consistent with having high ethical standards.

Question 2: The specified rules regarding research that require investigator compliance come from the federal government, from funders, from the institution itself, and from individual researchers. In fact, individual researchers are often the best source for the development of specific rules for the responsible conduct of research.

Correct Answer: False

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: It is probably not a good idea for individual researchers to establish their own rules for the responsible conduct of research. It was awareness that individual researchers do not always develop equally good rules that led to increased federal intervention.

Question 3: One of the problems in talking about research ethics is that while it is possible to describe how people DO act, there is not a good basis for arguing how people SHOULD act.

Correct Answer: False

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: The goal of normative ethics is to make and defend judgments about what counts as ethically prohibited, permitted and encouraged behavior.

Question 4: Ethical researchers are aware of the special responsibilities that follow from a researcher's role, work to fulfill those responsibilities and, in the process, choose actions that, at a minimum, do not cause unjustified harm to others.

Correct Answer: True

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: "Do your job and do not cause unjustified harm" is one of the few minimal standards agreed upon by moral philosophers throughout the ages.

Question 5: If a researcher can explain, when asked, the source of another's idea, processes, results or words, then the researcher's use would not count as plagiarism.

Correct Answer: False

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: "Appropriate credit" means giving credit at the appropriate time -- which almost

always means during the course of presentation, rather than after the fact.

Question 6: A moral agent is someone who has the capacity to be aware of the expectation that he or she should not cause unjustified harm to another person, sentient being or natural system.

Correct Answer: True

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: A moral agent has the rationality needed to make choices that do not cause unjustified harm to other persons, life forms, and natural systems. Of course, whether a harm is justified or not is often the most important ethical determination.

Question 7: Ethically permitted actions are consistent with those required by general morality and by reasonable expectations within the research community. Such actions, therefore, are the highest degree of ethical action possible.

Correct Answer: False

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: Ethically ideal actions are the highest degree of ethical action possible. Ethically permitted actions are those that are acceptable, but not necessarily the best.

Question 8: Pending PHS policy would require that all faculty and graduate students at research institutions complete a program of instruction in the responsible conduct of research.

Correct Answer: False

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: PHS would require such instruction for those who have direct and substantial involvement in proposing, performing, reviewing or reporting research or who receive research training supported by PHS funds or who work on PHS-supported research. However, most research institutions are also interested in providing such instruction for researchers who are not supported through PHS funds. Ethical research is the concern of everyone, regardless of the funding source.

Question 9: With regards to the case study of Dr. Leyos, publishing "statistically significant and convincing results" when it is not clear that the unlabeled samples support that conclusion is an example of research misconduct. Assigning the samples as one hopes they belong is equivalent to making up data or results. This choice is ethically prohibited.

Correct Answer: True

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: The decision by Dr. Leyos to call the results "statistically significant and convincing" is research misconduct.

Question 10: Regarding the case study for this section, a decision by Dr. Leyos to repeat the experiment is the ethically ideal approach. Therefore, it is ethically permitted to take funds already approved by the agency to support a post-doctoral student and use those funds to cover the additional experiment needed to reach statistical significance.

Correct Answer: False

Your Answer: You answered correctly.

Answer Explanation: As stated in the case study, using funds approved for student support to repeat the experiment is not ethically permitted because it is misappropriation of grant funds.

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Blair Gemmer

Has Successfully Completed

Section One: Ethical Issues in Research

of the

Online Research Ethics Course

On this Day:

04/26/2012

Have an Ethical Day