

Unit 4 Preassessment Answer Key

1. What does it mean for human beings to be created in the image and likeness of God? What implication does this have regarding respect for human life?
 - It means that all human life is sacred, of infinite value, and destined for eternal life. The implication is that we must show respect for human life at all stages—from conception to natural death—without any prejudice. It also means that we must work to protect all life and that violence of any kind, in word, thought, or deed, is not permitted unless in self-defense.
2. What acts in today's society are considered immoral based on the Fifth Commandment's demand to not kill?
 - There are many possible answers to this question, such as murder, abortion, capital punishment, war, terrorism, hate crimes, hurtful words, physical violence, rape, and euthanasia.
3. How are we required to be peacemakers in our relationships with others?
 - There are many possible answers to this question, including being called to speak out against prejudice, institutionalized violence, and unjust wars, and being called to advocate for others including the unborn, people with disabilities, and the elderly.
4. What can we do to change societal acceptance of abortion?
 - We can lobby and advocate to change laws supporting abortion, we can support organizations that support pregnant women, and we can educate others about the unborn and their rights.
5. What does the Magisterium teach regarding the morality of stem cell research and other related issues, such as genetic engineering?
 - The Church teaches that using stem cells from aborted fetuses for any purpose is immoral. Prenatal genetic engineering to treat birth defects, disabilities, and diseases is permitted but is not permitted for "creating" human beings with specific characteristics, sometimes called "designer babies."
6. What is the Christian moral response to end-of-life issues, such as euthanasia?
 - The Christian moral response is based on the truth that God alone is the author of life and death. Taking our own or someone else's life before its natural end—even for what may seem like compassionate reasons—is taking over the role that is God's alone. However, we are required to do all we can to make someone who is approaching death comfortable and pain free.
7. What are the criteria for a just war in Church teaching?
 - The criteria for a just war typically include the following: it must be for a just cause, the good must outweigh the evil (comparative justice), it must be declared by a legitimate authority, there must be a reasonable chance of winning, the good to be achieved must outweigh the overall destruction (proportionality), and it must be used only as a last resort.
8. What is the Church teaching on the use of the death penalty?
 - The death penalty was allowed in past centuries when there was no reasonable way of humanely imprisoning criminals who were serious dangers to society. However, now that society has developed humane ways of imprisoning dangerous criminals for life, recent popes have declared that the death penalty is wrong—a serious violation of human dignity.



9. How does the Fifth Commandment apply to your personal health? How can disregarding the Fifth Commandment result in ill health? Be specific in your examples.
- Answers will vary but should revolve around the theme that treating human life as sacred means treating your own body and health with respect and care.
10. Why is sexuality such a precious gift from God, and why is it such a powerful gift?
- Sexuality is such a precious gift because it allows us to share in God's power to create and nurture new life. It is powerful because it also creates a unique intimacy that God intended to strengthen a couple's lifelong commitment to each other in marriage.
11. What are the two primary ends or purposes of sexual intercourse in God's plan?
- The two primary purposes of sexual intercourse are to create new life and to strengthen and nurture the relationship between two people who are married. Saint Pope John Paul II called these the generative and nuptial ends of sexuality.
12. What is chastity, and to whom does it apply?
- Chastity is the virtue of building and maintaining sexual integrity. A chaste person expresses their sexuality in healthy and life-giving ways and avoids sexual temptation or being a sexual temptation for others. All people—single, married, priests, and vowed religious—are called to be chaste.
13. What are some sins against the Sixth and Ninth Commandments that can be committed before marriage?
- Some of the sins against the Sixth and Ninth Commandments that can be committed before marriage include fornication, pornography, prostitution, masturbation, and cohabitation.
14. Why is sexual intercourse only morally permitted in marriage—not before nor outside of the sacrament?
- The two ends of sexual intercourse—the creation of new life and the intimate, loving communion between husband and wife—are proper only in a married relationship. Sex outside of marriage leads to broken vows and broken hearts, and to the possibility of pain, disease, and unplanned pregnancies, all of which are not part of God's plan for us.
15. What are some sins against the Sixth and Ninth Commandments that can be committed by married people?
- Some of the sins against the Sixth and Ninth Commandments that can be committed by married people include adultery, polygamy, divorce, and many of the sins that can also be committed before marriage.
16. What is the Christian moral response to artificial contraception and artificial means of conception?
- The Christian response is that artificial contraception and artificial means of conception are immoral because the husband and wife must remain open to the possibility of children in every act of sexual intercourse and that the dignity of sexuality requires that children be created naturally.

