

Name		
Form		
Teacher		

Year 8 Homework Booklet

Faith & Ethics

Term 2—Ethics and Morality



What you do not want
others to do to you do
not do to others.
—Confucius



Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the oftener and more steadily we reflect on them: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me.

— Immanuel Kant



"The question is not, "Can they reason?" nor, "Can they talk?" but "Can they suffer?"

— JEREMY BENTHAM INTRODUCTION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF MORALS AND LEGISLATION (1789)

My teacher is going to test me on all of my homework on this day every week.	MONDAY
	TUESDAY
	WEDNESDAY
	THURSDAY
	FRIDAY

Key words.

Write down the correct definition for each of the key words. You will need to use your book and the terms from the last unit as well as looking some up. Learn them ready for tests throughout the unit.

Absolute Morality	
Relative Morality	
Golden Rule	
Teleology	
Deontology	
Utilitarianism	
Hedonism	
Humanism	
Act	
Intention	

Task 2: Match up the following key terms with their correct definition. Draw a line between the two boxes

Greatest Happiness Principle

Universal Law

Higher Pleasures

Lower Pleasures

People as Ends

Proposed by Mill - Pleasures of the mind e.g. going to an opera.

Utilitarian belief that the right action brings the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.

Proposed by Mill - Pleasures of the body e.g. eating and sleeping.

People must not be used for our own good when making moral decisions.

Kant's belief that a moral action can be universalised.

Task 3: Recap: Answer the following questions from your knowledge from your studies. Use your book to help you if you get stuck

Question 1: What did Bentham base his theory on ?

Question 2: How did Mill change Bentham's theory?

Question 3: Why is Utilitarianism a consequentialist theory ?

Question 4: What does the term telos mean ?

Question 5: Are any actions forbidden or wrong under Utilitarianism ?

Total: Task 2 and 3: /10

Humanism

Read the sources below which explains all about Humanism. Then use it to answer the questions below.

Source 1:

While atheism is merely the absence of belief, humanism is a **positive attitude to the world, centred on human experience, thought, and hopes**. The British Humanist Association and The International Humanist and Ethical Union use similar **emblems showing a stylised human figure reaching out to achieve its full potential**. Humanists believe that **human experience and rational thinking** provide the only source of both knowledge and a moral code to live by.

They reject the idea of knowledge 'revealed' to human beings by gods, or in special (Holy) books.

Most humanists would agree with the ideas below:

- There are **no supernatural beings. (no gods)**
- The material universe is the only thing that exists. They believe science provides the only reliable source of knowledge about this universe.
- We only live this life - there is no after-life, and no such thing as reincarnation.
- **Human beings can live ethical and fulfilling lives without religious beliefs.**
- Human beings derive their moral code from the lessons of history, personal experience, and thought.

Source 2: Viewpoint on Humanism:

Humanism is an approach to life **based on reason and our common humanity**, recognising that moral values are properly founded on human nature and experience alone.

Source 3: Humanism is a **democratic** and ethical life stance, which affirms that human beings have the **right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives**. It stands for the building of a more humane (compassionate or kind) society through an ethic based on human and other natural values in the spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities. It is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality. ***International Humanist and Ethical Union***

Use the sources above and your own knowledge to answer the following questions:

1. What is atheism?

2. What is humanism (source 1)

3. What symbol (emblem) do Humanist organisations use? (source 1)

4. What do Humanists believe can be the source of a moral code (2 things) (source 1)

5. What do Humanists reject? (source 1)

6. What do humanists believe about supernatural beings?

7. What is the humanist approach to life based on? (source 2)

8. According to source 3 is humanism democratic?

9. Who gives meaning to a person's life (source 3)

10. What does humane mean (source 3)?

Humanism

Imagine one of your friends was asking about Humanism. Add ideas to the mind-map to explain how a Humanist would approach a moral decision. What would they use? What would they not use? Use your knowledge and Homework 2 to help you.



Recall statements (use your knowledge from your lessons and previous homework)

- select the correct option by crossing out the wrong idea in the sentence.

- 1: Humanism is based on **reason and humanity/belief in God**.
2. Humanists have a **negative/positive** attitude to the world.
3. Humanists **do/do not** believe in supernatural beings (God or gods)
4. Humanists believe that you can rely on **science/religion** as a source of knowledge about the universe.
5. Humanists believe that you **should not/ you should** treat other humans well
6. Humanists believe that there is **not an afterlife/ there is an afterlife**.
7. Humanists **do not/ do** have a moral code to live by.
8. Humanists believe that moral codes **do/do not** come from special (Holy) Books.
9. Humanists believe that **there is/ there is not** another existence beyond the universe.
10. Humanists believe that **we only have one life/we are reincarnated**.

Utilitarianism: Read the following to remind you about the Utilitarianism and then use the information to help you fill in the gaps.

Jeremy Bentham devised this theory. He argued that all human beings were motivated by pleasure and pain, and so he can be called a hedonist. (hedone is Greek for Pleasure).

He said '*Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, pain and pleasure. It is for them alone to point out what we ought to do, as well as to determine what we shall do*' Bentham

He believed that people tried to bring pleasure or perhaps a better word to explain what he meant is happiness into their lives and to avoid pain. He saw this as a moral fact – something he believed everyone did whether they were aware of it or not. Pain and happiness identified what we should or shouldn't do. Bentham's theory is therefore sometimes called **Hedonic Utilitarianism**.

To help people understand what Bentham was trying to explain in determining what is moral or right he developed the UTILITY principle. The rightness or wrongness of an action is determined by its 'utility' or usefulness. An action is useful if it generates happiness rather than pain. In other words 'An action is right if it produces the greatest good for the greatest number' or 'An action is right if it produces the greatest happiness or least pain or sadness for the majority or people.

Hedonic Calculus:

Bentham developed something called the Hedonic Calculus which can be used to weigh up the pain and pleasure generated by available moral actions to find the best option. It considers 7 factors such as

Its duration- how long it will last.

Its purity – whether it will be followed by pains rather than more happiness.

Its extent – the number of people who will be affected by it.

Fill in the gaps using the information above. Each is worth 1/2 a mark.

Jeremy _____ devised the theory of _____. He believed that all human beings were motivated by two things _____ and pleasure. This means that he can be called a _____ because the Greek word for Pleasure is hedone. Bentham believed that pain and pleasure would direct humans about what we should _____. By the word pleasure Bentham is actually talking about _____. He felt that we should aim to bring _____ and to avoid _____ and suffering when we make a moral decision.

Bentham developed the _____ principle to help explain what was moral or right. The rightness or wrongness of an action is determined by its 'utility' or _____. If an action brings more happiness than pain then it is _____. Bentham's theory aims to bring happiness to the _____ of people not the minority.

To help decide whether an action was right or _____ (useful or not) Bentham developed the Hedonic _____ which could be used to measure or _____ the pain and pleasure generated by an action. It considers _____ factors such as its _____ or how long it will last. It's _____ which means whether it will be followed by pain or more pleasure. If it is followed by pain then it is less pure. It also measures the _____ of the happiness, in other words the _____ of people who will be affected by it.

Total out of /20 which means /10

and Social Reform

Bentham challenged the ideas around at his time in Britain. **People believed that God had made everyone in their place.** So, if a person was rich and a member of the aristocracy then they were put in that place by God, if they were poor and struggled to get enough food then God had put them in that place.

Those who were rich and powerful were believed to be more important than those who were poor. This meant that **people were not treated the same when crimes had been committed.** Members of the aristocracy were far more likely to get off the charge and a poor person was far more likely to get a severe punishment. This is inequality.

Bentham **believed in equality** – this was a **really radical idea at the time.** He believed that all people, men, women, rich or poor, whatever back ground, whatever nationality, whatever skin colour were all equal. Bentham said that one person's happiness was to count as equal to another person's happiness. Bentham famously said **'Everybody to count for one, nobody for more than one'**.

Jeremy Bentham was a social reformer, that is, he **wanted to see a change in many of the laws in Britain because he believed that a large number of laws were unjust and immoral.** Bentham and his followers believed that, using utilitarianism, they could show that these laws were wrong.

For example, at that time many people in Britain had made huge sums of money legally through slavery. Bentham argued that although **slavery might make a slave owner wealthy and happy, that happiness was far outweighed by the intense misery suffered by the hundreds, perhaps thousands of slaves he owned.**

'As soon as slavery is established, it becomes the lot of the greatest number....The advantage is only on the side of a single person; the disadvantages are on the side of the multitude' (Bentham)

Use the information above to answer the questions Jeremy Bentham and Social Reform:

1. What were the ideas around in Britain about people's places in society?
2. Which group of people were believed to be more important than others?
3. Were all people treated the same when it came to committing a crime and the law?
4. What is equality?
5. Why did Bentham believe in equality? Use a quote.
6. Was Bentham's belief in equality unusual for the time he lived?
7. What did Bentham want to change in England?
8. Why did he want to change them?
9. What did Bentham believe about slavery?
10. Why did he believe this?

Weighing up Utilitarianism

Read over the strengths and weaknesses of Utilitarianism. Use them to complete the tasks below.

Strengths:

Utilitarianism is fair. **Every person is worth the same** *'Each person is to count for one, and no person for more than one'*. Bentham

No actions are forbidden so you can always act in a really difficult or extreme situation e.g. like in a war
The theory works well in the public arena e.g. in government or allocating resources in the NHS.

Considering the majority works well in governing a country.

Bentham aimed to bring social reform. He aimed to help the majority of people who were poor and not treated well in society at the time.

Happiness is valued by most people. *'It seems reasonable to link morality with the pursuit of happiness and the avoidance of pain and misery, and this connection would receive popular support'*. (Robert Bowie)

Weaknesses:

Utilitarianism requires the **need to predict future consequences** and this always lacks certainty. Hume the famous philosopher pointed out that people may suffer 3rd or 4th hand over consequences that appeared positive at first.

We have special duties and responsibilities towards our family and friends over that of a stranger. We cannot be objective or impartial (not favouring someone) in the way we need to be to follow Utilitarianism.

The **minority matter as well.** The majority are not always right – just look at Nazi Germany. **Human rights are not protected under this theory.** *'it guarantees nothing for minorities'* (Robert Bowie).

No action is forbidden but some actions are simply morally wrong- P. Pettit (a scholar) argued that it could justify murder or other horrendous acts if it was seen to bring about the greatest happiness for the greatest number.

Match up the start with the correct end of the sentence about why men went to fight in the Crusades . Draw a line between the boxes.

1. Utilitarianism considers the	Most people. It seems a reasonable basis for morality.
2. Happiness is valued by	Majority and does what is best for them.
3. Everyone has the same	In the public arena, it works for a democratic government.
4. The theory works well	Worth under Utilitarianism. Everyone counts for one.

Answer the questions using the information:

- Are any actions forbidden under Utilitarianism?
- What is the problem with basing a theory on the results of an action?
- What is the problem with everyone having the same worth when we make a moral decision?
- Although the majority benefit—who can end up suffering?
- What is not protected under the theory?
- What actions could be justified if it brought the greatest happiness for the greatest number?

Key words Match the key word and it's definition. Match the boxes using the spaces to fill in numbers. *The first one is done for you as an example.*

Key Term/ Word	No.	Definition
1. Relative morality		An action is right based on the motivation or intention.
2. Absolute morality	1.	Actions are right or wrong based on the circumstances. An action may be right in one situation but wrong in another
3. Consequentialist		A theory that is based on the 'telos' or end result of actions.
4. Intentionalist		Actions are right or wrong based on the act itself. They are always right or always wrong.
5. Teleology		A theory that is based on 'deon' or 'duty'. It is based on the actions themselves.
6. Deontology		An action is right based on the consequences it produces.

Match the correct concept for each of the following statements —read them all carefully before deciding. Is it:

Bentham's Utilitarianism or Kant's deontology

Concept	Example
	An action brings happiness to the majority
	An action is right based on duty
	Only the consequences matter
	The minority are not considered.
	Human rights are protected as people cannot be used as a means to an end.
	Rules must be universalizable to be moral.

Mill's Utilitarianism: Read the following information and use it to answer the questions below.

Mill was concerned about Bentham's focus on the quantity of pleasure because it caused weaknesses to his theory and meant that **the minority could be abused for the good of a majority**. He therefore proposed that the **quality of happiness** should be considered rather than the amount of happiness.

He argued that there were **higher pleasures which were pleasures of the mind** and **lower pleasures that were pleasures of the body**. He said that **higher pleasures were worth more than lower pleasures** and once people had their basic needs met they would choose a higher over a lower pleasure.

Mill famously said **'It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied'**. In other words it was better to find the pleasures of the mind tricky and frustrating at times than to just follow bodily pleasures like eating, drinking and sleeping as animals can do that! However, **Mill did not make it clear how we were to order the Higher Pleasures. How do we know which is better?** Is listening to opera better than doing a sudoku puzzle?

Utilitarianism has been criticised by religious leaders as it ignores duty and absolute rules. For example many Christians believe you should follow the 10 Commandments. Utilitarian's argue that we should break one of these rules in a situation if it brought the greatest happiness for the greatest number. For example it might be right to lie.

Mill however believed that a person can use Utilitarianism and believe in God. He said **'Utility is not only not a godless doctrine but more profoundly religious than any other'**.

But what did he mean by this? Utilitarianism is not a **'godless doctrine'**. It would be very odd to conceive of God as a being that would create the universe in order to then watch humans and animals suffer. What does that say about the moral character of God? If it is a true belief that God's will, above all things, is the happiness of his creatures and that this was God's purpose in creating them, then utilitarianism is not a **'godless doctrine'**. **As utilitarianism also seeks to increase happiness everywhere, God and utilitarianism seek the same thing.** It follows from this that utilitarianism is not a **'godless doctrine'** but is more profoundly religious than any other.

Questions	Answers
1. What was Mill concerned about in Bentham's theory?	
2. What is Mill's theory based on?	
3. What is a higher pleasure?	
4. What is a Lower pleasure ?	
5. Which is better Higher or Lower Pleasures?	
6. What is the problem with Mill's concept?	
7. What do religious leaders criticise Utilitarianism for ignoring?	
8. Would a Utilitarian break a rule if it brought greater happiness?	
9. Did Mill believe Utilitarianism could fit with belief in God?	
10. How did Mill describe Utilitarianism (finish the quote)	Utility is not a godless doctrine but.....

The Golden Rule—Read the information below.

Christianity and the Golden Rule All religions have a version of the Golden Rule in their teaching. Jesus taught his followers to ‘Treat others as you would like to be treated’

The story of the *Sheep and Goats* told by Jesus teaches that if a person is hungry you should feed them and if you do this then it is like you are doing it for God. The Golden Rule teaches that we should treat others as we would want to be treated. When Jesus was asked: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22: 36-7

There is also a secular (non-religious) version of the Golden Rule This version of the Golden Rule is older than Jesus’ version. About 2,500 years ago the great Chinese thinker, Confucius, said ‘Do not do to others what you would not like for yourself’.

The Golden Rule is based on the idea of giving to other people what you want for yourself. The Golden Rule is not the same as the rule of retaliation or *lex talionis* in Latin. It doesn’t mean that if a person treats you badly, then treat them equally badly. With the Golden Rule the idea is to be fair and considerate towards all people all of the time, even if they are not very fair to you, because being considerate is how you would want to be treated.

Criticism: One criticism of the Golden Rule is that it doesn’t take into account people’s likes and dislikes. Sometimes people don’t want to be treated in the way you want to be treated. They want to be treated in the way THEY want to be treated. For example a person might not want any help in a situation, even when you would. If you carry on and help them even if they say they don’t want help is that disrespectful and wrong? Don’t we have to listen to people and take into account what they say they want?

Select the correct word or phrase in each sentence by crossing out the wrong idea.

1. Jesus’ Golden Rule is to treat others as **they/as you** would like to be treated.
2. Jesus’ Golden rule can be seen in the teaching to ‘love your **neighbour/anyone** as yourself’
3. The Parable or story of the **Sheep and Cows/ Sheep and Goats** teaches that if someone needs help we should help them and when we do we are doing it for God.
4. **Confucius/Jesus’** version of the Golden Rule is older.
5. Confucius said to **do/do not do** to others what you would not like for yourself.
6. The Golden rule **means/does not mean** that if someone treats you badly you should treat them badly.
7. The idea of the Golden Rule is to be fair and considerate to others **when they are/ even when they are not** considerate to you.
8. A **strength/ criticism** of the Golden Rule is that it does not take into account people’s likes or dislikes.
9. Some argue that a person should be treated how **you/they** want to be treated instead of the Golden Rule.
10. The Golden Rule takes **does not/ does** take into account people’s likes and dislikes.

Deontology.

Read the information below on Deontology. Use it to help you to complete the tasks:

Another approach to making moral decisions is that the intentions and the actions themselves matter. **Deontological theories are concerned with actions not consequences.** If a certain action is wrong then it is wrong in all circumstances and all conditions, the **consequences do not matter.** This is an opposite approach to Utilitarianism which argues that the consequences determine whether an action is right or wrong. (This is a teleological approach to moral decision making.) Perhaps the most famous deontological theory of ethics was developed by Immanuel Kant.

Kant's deontology is an approach to moral decision making that claims that moral decisions are right if they have the right **motive or intention (why you are doing the action)** and if the action itself is right. The consequences do not matter. He believed that there was a **MORAL LAW (there is a law in the world that we can discover)** that we should obey.

The term deontology comes from the LATIN term 'DEON' which means DUTY. Kant argues that we should use our **REASON (our ability to think through decisions)** to work out what is right. **He calls the right action our 'duty' (a duty is something we should do).** Once we have worked out our duty Kant says we must do it. Feelings or what we want do not matter. We need to do our duty to follow the moral law. Our duty is always our duty – there are no exceptions. Our duty should be our motivation to be moral not emotions because **emotions change and are therefore unreliable.** Kant argues that something is right if we can UNIVERSALISE it. Everyone should be able to do it. **(if it is right for me then it is right for everyone to do the same).** This is the **UNIVERSAL LAW.**

Moral actions should also treat people as **ENDS IN THEMSELVES, this means people should never be treated as a means to an end.** For example. I can't make use of someone to bring a consequence I want.

These ideas are two versions or formulations of what Kant calls THE CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE. **The categorical imperative should determine all moral decisions. This is a rule or imperative that doesn't change.** If an action follows the categorical imperative then it is something that is morally right to do.

Kant's understanding of the concept or idea:	Explanation of the concept or idea
Deontological Theory	
Consequences	
Motive	
Reason	
Moral Law	
Duty	
Emotions	
Universal Law	
Ends in Themselves	
Categorical imperative.	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Marks out of /10 </div>

Kantian Deontology

Key ideas: There is a moral law that is universal. Everyone can work it out through using their reason. To be moral is to follow your duty. Moral actions should be able to be universalised (The Universal Law) this is the first version of the Categorical Imperative. Moral actions should also not treat people as a means to an end. People should not be used for our benefit. People should always be treated with respect and as an end in themselves. This is the second version of the Categorical Imperative. Kant was critical of Utilitarianism and argued that morality was not about trying to make yourself and others happy but was about being worthy of happiness. To be worthy of happiness we should always do our duty. Kant said 'The happiness principle contributes nothing whatever toward establishing morality, since making a man happy is quite different from making him good.' Basing morality on interests and preferences destroys its dignity. It doesn't teach us how to distinguish right from wrong, but "only to become better at calculation"

Reason: Kant argued that morality must have a reliable basis. He believed that feelings were unreliable and so couldn't be the basis for morality. Emotions change day to day. In the same situation on different days depending on what has happened and how we are feeling we might think different consequences might make us happy.

Kant believed our reason (our ability to think through actions and come to a decision) when not influenced by anything else is always the same. It doesn't change as feelings change. Therefore reason is the best basis for moral decisions according to Kant.

Decide which of the following statements are True or False for Kant's approach to morality:

Put a T next to True statements and Cross out False statements

1. Kant believed that the most important thing when making a moral decision was happiness.
2. Kant believed that morality changed depending on the situation.
3. Kant believed that the moral law was universal.
4. Kant believed that only some people could work out the moral law.
5. Kant believed that everyone could use their reason to work out the moral law.
6. Moral actions should be able to be universalised.
7. To be moral is to follow utilitarianism.
8. Kant was critical of Utilitarianism
9. Kant argued that we need to be worthy of happiness by following our duty
10. Kant believed that feelings were a reliable basis for moral decision making over reason.

Write two corrections here for two of the false statements:

Weighing up Kant's Theory.

Answer the following questions using the information below:

Strengths of deontology:

People are not exploited or used. They are valued in and of themselves. This is real justice 'Justice is always an absolute, even if the majority of people do not benefit' Tyler and Reid

There are clear rules for morality. **'It recognises the value of moral absolutes that do not change with time or culture.** Tyler and Reid

Morality is based on **reason which doesn't shift or change** like emotions do. This makes it accessible to all human beings because it appeals to reason alone.' Clarke

Consequences are hard to predict so duty is a better basis.

Weaknesses of deontology:

The **consequences do matter, they are what affects us.** 'Only consequences have a real effect on human well-being' Tyler and Reid

Sometimes such as in times of war we may need to use some people as a means to an end to help the majority. **'A government can't sacrifice a few for the many.....**such a sacrifice is politically necessary for the good of the majority'. Bowie

We cannot get rid of our emotions when we make decisions. Kant rejects acting out of compassion (Bowie)

We are motivated by more than duty.

Strengths:

1. Why is Kant's theory considered to promote justice?
2. What does Kant's theory recognise?
3. Do the rules change?
4. What is morality based on and why is this good?
5. What is the problem with using consequences?

Weaknesses:

6. Why do consequences matter?
7. What might a government need to do at a time of war?
8. What can we not get rid of because we are human?

Match up the following terms—you may need to look them up. Draw a line between the two correct ideas.

Teleology

A theory that is based on duty and has fixed rules

Deontology

A theory that is based on the ends or consequences of the action taken.

Total out of /10

Complete the 10 questions on the page using the information for each section

Making Moral Decisions

Ethics is all about **moral decisions and moral decision making is all about what is right and wrong**. There are different ideas about what makes an action right or wrong. People use their morality or sense of right and wrong every day as they make decisions about what to do in moral dilemmas. For example, **whether they should lie to protect someone's feelings**, whether they should help someone when they are stuck in a test, whether they should keep a secret they have been told. The Golden Rule is one rule some people use for deciding what is right or wrong. **The Golden Rule is to treat others how you would want to be treated**. There is a secular (non-religious) version and also religious versions of the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule in Christianity is based on the **teachings of Jesus**.

1. *What is ethics about?*
2. *What is moral decision making about ?*
3. *Give one example of a moral dilemma*
4. *What is the Golden Rule?*
5. *Who taught the Christian version of the Golden Rule?*

Humanism

Read the following information

Humanists do not believe in God or Holy Books but they do have a **positive view about humanity and our ability to be moral and treat each other well**. Humanists argue that there is only the material world and universe, **there is no afterlife**—heaven or hell and no reincarnation. **Science can give us the answers that we need to know**.

Humanists believe that we can use **reason** (our ability to think things through), **past experience**, and also **history** to make moral decisions.

6. *What do Humanists believe about humanity?*
7. *What do Humanists believe about God and Holy Books?*
8. *What do Humanists believe about life after death?*
9. *Where will Humanists look for answers?*
10. *What do Humanists believe we use when we make moral decisions?*

Revision: Ethics and Morality

Absolute morality—This is the belief that if an action is right or wrong, it is always right or wrong, no matter what the circumstances or consequences.

Relative morality—This is the belief that an action can sometimes be wrong but in other circumstances it may be right depending on the circumstances or consequences

Humanism - Humanists have a positive view of Humans and think we can make our own moral decisions based on reason, personal experience and history. They do not believe in God, an afterlife or Holy Books.

Christianity and the Golden Rule—The story of the Sheep and Goats told by Jesus teaches that if a person is hungry you should feed them and if you do this then it is like you are doing it for God. The Golden Rule teaches that we should treat others as we would want to be treated. When Jesus was asked: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22: 36-7

Secular Golden Rule—The Golden Rule. About 2,500 years ago the great Chinese thinker, Confucius, said ‘Do not do to others what you would not like for yourself’.

Criticism of the Golden Rule—One criticism of the Golden Rule is that it doesn’t take into account people’s likes and dislikes. Sometimes people don’t want to be treated in the way you want to be treated. They want to be treated in the way THEY want to be treated.

Consequentialists—Consequentialists claim that an action is morally right if the consequences or outcome of the action is of benefit to others.

Intentionalists -Intentionalists believe that the action is right or wrong based in the intention or motivation of a person who does it regardless of the actual outcome or consequences

Teleology - moral theory based on ‘telos’ or ends or consequences.

Utilitarianism - Jeremy Bentham devised this theory. He argued that all human beings were motivated by pleasure and pain, and so he can be called a hedonist. (hedone is Greek for Pleasure). *‘Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, pain and pleasure. It is for them alone to point out what we ought to do, as well as to determine what we shall do’* Bentham. Pain and happiness identified what we should or shouldn’t do.

Principle of Utility—To help people understand what Bentham was trying to explain in determining what is moral or right he developed the UTILITY principle. The rightness or wrongness of an action is determined by its ‘utility’ or usefulness. An action is useful if it generates happiness rather than pain.

Greatest Happiness Principle- ‘An action is right if it produces the greatest good for the greatest number’ or ‘An action is right if it produces the greatest happiness or least pain or sadness for the majority or people.

Hedonic Calculus—Bentham developed something called the Hedonic Calculus which can be used to weigh up the pain and pleasure generated by available moral actions to find the best option. It considers 7 factors such as Its duration- how long it will last. Its purity – whether it will be followed by pains rather than more happiness. Its extent – the number of people who will be affected by it.

Bentham and Equality—Bentham **believed in equality** – this was a **really radical idea at the time**. He believed that all people, men, women, rich or poor, whatever background, whatever nationality, whatever skin colour were all equal. Bentham said that one person’s happiness was to count as equal to another

Strengths of Utilitarianism: Utilitarianism is fair. Every person is worth the same ‘*Each person is to count for one, and no person for more than one*’. Bentham. No actions are forbidden so you can always act in a really difficult or extreme situation e.g. like in a war. Considering the majority works well in governing a country. Bentham aimed to bring social reform. He aimed to help the majority of people who were poor and not treated well in society at the time. Happiness is valued by most people. ‘*It seems reasonable to link morality with the pursuit of happiness and the avoidance of pain and misery, and this connection would receive popular support*’. (Robert Bowie)

Weaknesses of Utilitarianism: Utilitarianism requires the **need to predict future consequences** and this always lacks certainty. Hume the famous philosopher pointed out that people may suffer 3rd or 4th hand over consequences that appeared positive at first. We have special duties and responsibilities towards our family and friends over that of a stranger. We cannot be objective or impartial (not favouring someone) in the way we need to be to follow Utilitarianism. The minority matter as well. ‘*it guarantees nothing for minorities*’ (Robert Bowie). No action is forbidden but some actions are simply morally wrong- P. Pettit (a scholar) argued that it could justify murder or other horrendous acts if it was seen to bring about the greatest happiness for the greatest number.

Mill’s Utilitarianism: Decisions should be based on the quality of happiness rather than quantity to prevent the minority being abused. Mill famously said ‘***It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied***’. In other words it was better to find the pleasures of the mind tricky and frustrating at times that to just follow bodily pleasures like eating, drinking and sleeping as animals can do that! Mill believed that Utilitarianism did not exclude religion it was not a ‘godless doctrine’ but that if God was loving then God would want happiness for his creation and therefore Utilitarianism and God sought the same thing.

Higher Pleasures—of the Mind

Lower Pleasures - of the body.

Deontology - from the Greek ‘deon’ meaning duty. Moral actions are right or wrong in themselves.

Kantian Deontology - Kant proposed perhaps the most famous deontological theory.

Moral Law—Kant believed that there was a moral law that we can discover through reason. We should follow the moral law to carry out moral actions.

Duty - our motivation for actions should be our duty—our duty was to follow the moral law and we discovered the moral law by using our reason.

Reason -- our ability to think things through and make moral decisions.

Universal Law—Kant argues an action is right if it can be universalised and applied to everyone.

People as Ends in themselves— Kant believed that people should only be treated as an end not as a means to an end. They shouldn’t be used for our benefit.

The Categorical Imperative—this is what Kant says should determine moral decisions. This is a rule or imperative that doesn’t change. Two of the formulations are the universal law and people as ends in themselves.

Strengths of deontology: People are not exploited or used. They are valued in and of themselves. This is real justice ‘Justice is always an absolute, even if the majority of people do not benefit’ Tyler and Reid There are clear rules for morality. ‘It recognises the value of moral absolutes that do not change with time or culture. Tyler and Reid. Morality is based on reason which doesn’t shift or change like emotions do. This makes it accessible to all human beings because it appeals to reason alone.’ Clarke Consequences are hard to predict so duty is a better basis.

Weaknesses of deontology: The consequences do matter, they are what affects us. ‘Only consequences have a real effect on human well-being’ Tyler and Reid. Sometimes such as in times of war we may need to use some people as a means to an end to help the majority. ‘A government can’t sacrifice a few for the many.....such a sacrifice is politically necessary for the good of the majority’. Bowie We cannot get rid of our emotions when we make decisions. Kant rejects acting out of compassion (Bowie). We are motivated by more than duty.

Revision Activities: Ethics and Morality

Draw a line between the correct term and its meaning

Key Terms:

Absolute morality:

Relative morality:

Secular:

Humanist:

Deontology:

Teleology:

Meaning

Non-religious

Moral theory based on duty. Actions are right in themselves

Positive view of Humanity, moral ideas based on reason & experience.

Moral theory based on ends or consequences

Moral rules are absolute and do not change.

Moral rules change depending on the situation.

5 Facts about Bentham's Utilitarianism

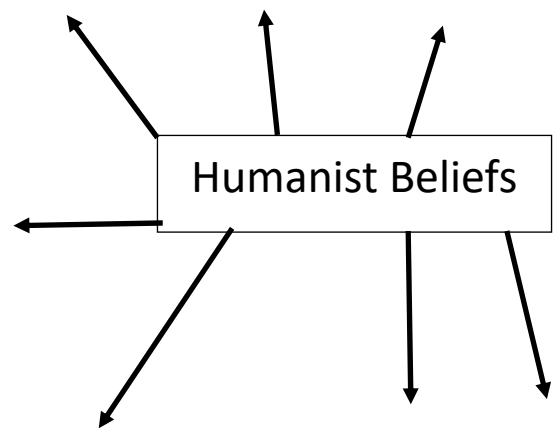
* Based on the quantity of Happiness

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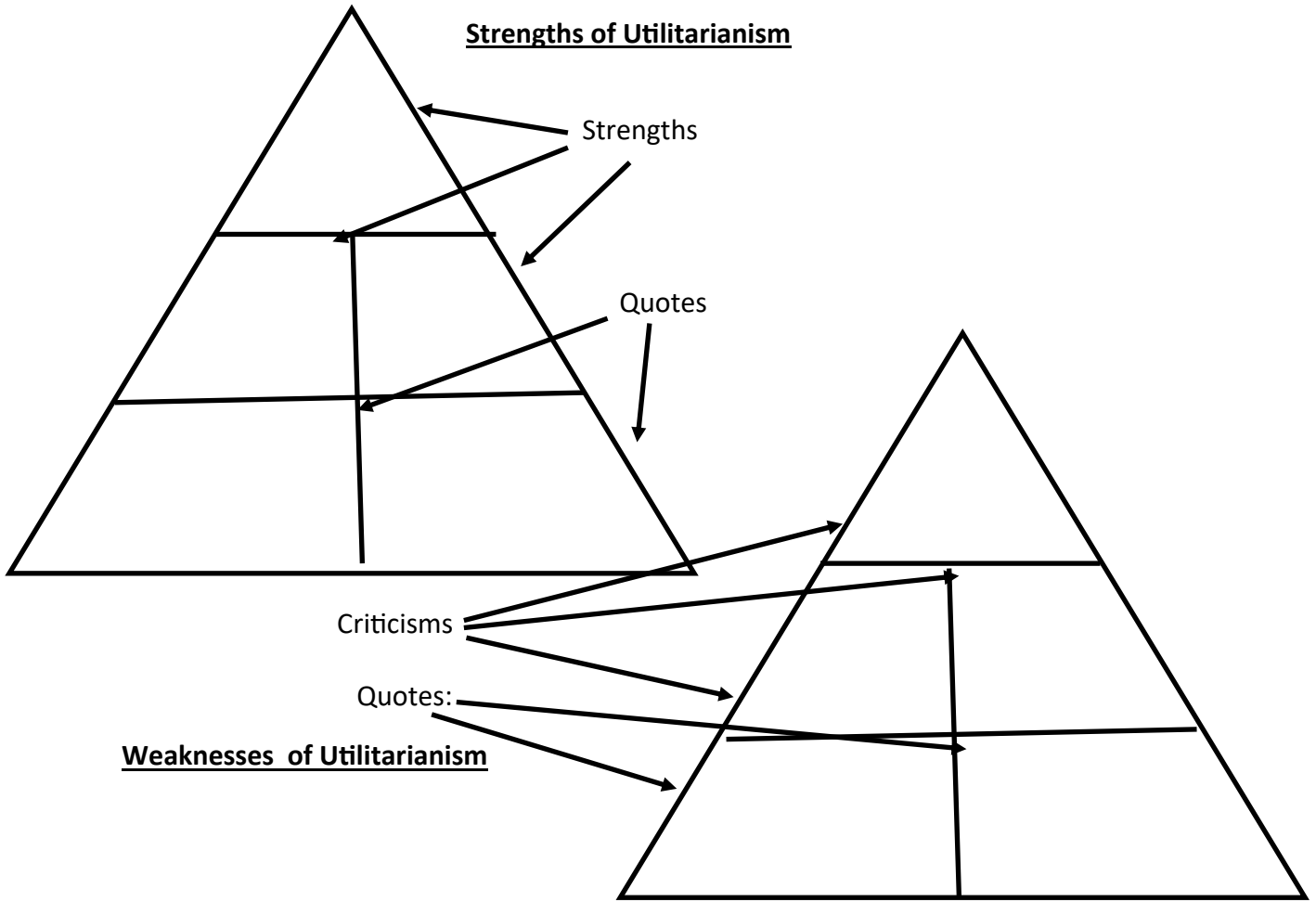
Mill's Utilitarianism	Higher Pleasures	Lower Pleasures
Definition:		
Example:		

Golden Rule

Secular Version:

Christian Version

Criticism:



Kant's Deontology:

The Moral Law:

Reason:

Duty:

Categorical Imperative

Universal Law

People as Ends

- 3 strengths of Deontology**
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3,
- Quote:
- 3 Weaknesses of Deontology**
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- Quote:

Own Revision Notes:

