



(1) Keywords		(2) What ethical theories will we apply?	(3) What ethical theories will we apply?
Ethical Theory	Ethical theories tell us how we should act by suggesting what is right and wrong.	<u>Utilitarianism</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeremy Bentham argued that the right action is the one that produces the greatest happiness for the greatest number.• Utilitarianism is hedonistic because it aims to maximise pleasure/happiness and minimise pain.• Bentham's version is quantitative because it focuses on the amount of pleasure produced.• Bentham developed the Hedonic Calculus to help decide which action produces the most pleasure. The Hedonic Calculus considers Intensity (how strong), Duration (how long) and Certainty (how likely) the pleasure is.	<u>Natural Law</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• St Thomas Aquinas believed humans have a natural tendency to do good and avoid evil.• Natural Law is based on five primary precepts (fundamental rules):<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Preservation of life2. Continuation of the human species3. Education of children4. Living in an ordered society5. Worship of God Humans create rules that will fulfil the primary precepts. These rules are known as secondary precepts. For example, to meet the preservation of life precept, Christians should follow the ten commandment 'thou shalt not kill'
Natural Law	An ethical theory created by St Thomas Aquinas which focusses on doing good and avoiding evil.		
Primary Precepts	Five rules which help humans act according to Natural Law theory.		
Utilitarianism	An ethical theory created by Jeremy Bentham which states that an action should bring the most happiness to the most amount of people.		
Hedonic Calculus	A system used to work out which action will produce the most happiness for the most people.		
Situation Ethics	An ethical theory created by Joseph Fletcher which states that a decision is right if it is the most loving action.		
Dilemma	A situation where a difficult choice must be made.		
(4) What ethical theories will we apply?		(5) What ethical dilemmas will we study?	(6) What ethical dilemmas will we study?
<p>Joseph Fletcher argued that the right action depends on the situation and should be the most loving choice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Situation Ethics uses four working principles to guide decisions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pragmatism – the action must produce a loving outcome.2. Personalism – people come first; actions should show love for others.3. Relativism – what is right depends on the situation.4. Positivism – Christians should choose the most loving action based on their faith.		<u>Eye in the Sky dilemma</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Military officers must decide whether to fire a missile at terrorists planning an attack, knowing an innocent child nearby would be killed.• The dilemma explores the conflict between protecting many lives and harming an innocent person.• It can be used to explore how different ethical theories might reach different decisions. Students should consider whether outcomes, intentions, rules or the situation should determine what is morally right. <u>Ticking Bomb dilemma</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authorities have captured a terrorist who knows the location of a nuclear bomb that could kill millions. They must decide whether to torture the terrorist to find the bomb and save lives, or refuse to torture them regardless of the consequences.	<u>Violinist dilemma</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judith Jarvis Thomson created this dilemma to explore whether we have a duty to help others.• You wake up connected to an unconscious violinist, whose life depends on you remaining connected for nine months.• The dilemma asks whether you should remain connected and save his life, or disconnect and allow him to die. It can be used to explore rights, responsibility and personal choice in ethical decision-making.
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