

T&P

Paper 2: ETHICS

SUMMARY NOTES

A complete set of notes for the
AS Religious Studies exam, Paper 2.



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① Natural Law

Thomas Aquinas, deontological and absolutist (action)

Primary precepts - POWER

secondary precepts derived from primary precepts

Purpose of human life is to achieve eudaimonia

Doctrine of Double Effect - judge intention



STRENGTHS

- ✓ Absolute and deontological
- ✓ Universal
- ✓ Flexible
- ✓ Based on reason

WEAKNESSES

- x Vague
- x Too flexible
- x Too optimistic
- x Linked to Church
- x Euthyphro dilemma

EVALUATION

② Situation Ethics

Joseph Fletcher, teleological (outcome)

Pragmatism, Relativism, Positivism, Personalism

AGAPE - most loving ~~action~~ outcome

STRENGTHS

✓ Personal

✓ Flexible

✓ Positive

WEAKNESSES

× Inconsistent

× Unclear

× Allows evil

× Human nature

× Unchristian

EVALUATION

③ Kantian Ethics

Immanuel Kant, deontological (action)

Categorical Imperative: universalisation,
means to an end, kingdom of ends

Reward is summum bonum

STRENGTHS

- ✓ Straight forward
- ✓ Based on reason
- ✓ Equality
- ✓ Duty-based
- ✓ Human worth

WEAKNESSES

- ✗ Inflexible
- ✗ Rationality
- ✗ Human nature
- ✗ Religion

EVALUATION

④ Utilitarianism (1) - Act

Jeremy Bentham, teleological (outcome)

Hedonism: pleasure = good

Hedonic Calculus: I Do C*ck Porn For
Penis Ejaculation

= Intensity, Duration, Certainty, Propinquity,
Fecundity, Purity, Extent

Used to work out most pleasurable outcome

STRENGTHS

- ✓ Simple aim
- ✓ Rational
- ✓ Not rigid

WEAKNESSES

- × Don't know outcome
- × Takes too long
- × Can disregard minorities
- × Examples like gang rape

EVALUATION

⑤ Utilitarianism (2) - Rule/Preference

John Stuart Mill, teleological (outcome)

Happiness instead of pleasure

Divided pleasures into higher and lower

Peter Singer, teleological (outcome)

About preferences not pleasure

Speciesism - capacity to suffer

STRENGTHS

- ✓ Simple aim
- ✓ Less relative
- ✓ Not rigid

WEAKNESSES

- ✗ Don't know outcome
- ✗ Elitist (rule)
- ✗ Can be mistaken (preferences)



⑥ Euthanasia

Assisted Dying

Slippery slope

Sanctity of Life

strong = life is sacred

weak = life is a gift not a burden

Quality of Life

life not objectively valuable

NATURAL LAW

- strong SOL
- goes against Preservation of Life (primary precept)
- doctrine of double effect allows morphine

SITUATION ETHICS

- QoL
- agape - most loving
- personalism and relativism



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APPLICATION

⑦ Business Ethics

Corporate Social Responsibility

Whistle blowing

Good ethics is good business

Globalisation / Exploitation

KANTIAN ETHICS

- Respect for people (means to an end)
- Universalisation principle - lying is wrong
- Duty to act ethically

UTILITARIANISM

- Free market, liberty
- Greatest good for greatest number
- Act vs. Rule - hedonism vs. higher/lower pleasures



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APPLICATION