

(1) Keywords

Ethics

Natural Law Theory

Precept

Utilitarianism

Ethics tries to teach us what is right and wrong and teach us how we should act.

An ethical theory created by St Thomas

Aquinas which focusses on doing good and avoiding evil by following the 5 precepts.

Rule

An ethical theory, created by Jeremy Bentham, which states that an action that brings the greatest amount of happiness to the greatest amount of people is the right action.

Natural Law Theory: St Thomas Aquinas believed it was our human nature to do good and avoid evil. Natural Law Theory is based on <u>five</u> <u>primary precepts</u> (rules) that if followed, would please God.

- Preserve Life—protect life at all costs.
- 2. Continue the Human Species—make sure humans can reproduce.
- 3. Educate of Children.
- 4. Live in an Ordered Society—follow laws and rules from the Bible.
- 5. Worship God—consider God when you make decisions.

(3) U litarianism

<u>Utilitarianism</u>: Jeremy Bentham believed an action that brings the greatest amount of happiness to the greatest amount of people is the right action.

In order to work out which action will produce the greatest amount of pleasure for the greatest number of people, Bentham created the **Hedonic Calculus**:

1. Intensity - how intense will the happineso. 3?

(4) Situa on Ethics

Situation Ethics: Joseph Fteiden Militatory routificeres an arviss-to de sile at a house where a terrorist group are staying.

Next door to the house is a young, innocent girl who would be killed in the explosion. What would you do?

Ticking Time Bomb

A criminal group states that it has hidden a bomb in London. The authorities have captured the leader of the group and they say that only they know where the bomb is. Torture (extreme pain) is guaranteed to produce the information needed to make sure the authorities find the bomb. Is it acceptable to torture the criminal in order to find the bomb and save millions of lives? What would you do?

(5) Eye in the Sky & Ticking Time Bomb

(6) The Violinist Dilemma—Judith Jarvis

Imagine you wake up in the morning and find yourself back-to-back in bed with an unconscious violinist. You alone have the right blood type to help. His fans have kidnapped you and last night the violinist's circulatory system was plugged into yours. If you unplug the violinist you would kill him. However, you only have to stay plugged in for nine months. By then he will have recovered from his disease and can safely be unplugged from you. What would you do?