

5. **'Proportionalism deals effectively with all ethical issues.'**
Evaluate this view.

[AO2 30]

Candidates could include some or all of the following, but other relevant points should be credited.

- Proportionalism is effective when dealing with all ethical issues because it does not fall into the deontological trap of inflexibility. Purely deontological ethics can be seen as inflexible because they do not take into account that some unique moral situations require unique moral solutions.
- Proportionalism is effective because it offers the 'best of both worlds' in terms of deontological and teleological approaches. Hoose believes that we should follow fixed ethical principles (a deontological approach), but if there is a proportionate reason not to follow the ethical principle then we may do so (a teleological approach).
- Proportionalism gives the moral agent clear guidance by providing a clear set of deontological ethical rules to follow most of the time, however it allows flexibility when there is a proportionate reason to justify it.
- Proportionalism is effective when dealing with all ethical issues because it makes a clear distinction between evil moral acts and pre-moral evil acts. Some teleological ethics would claim that no action is wrong or right in itself. Therefore, they are open to the criticism that they allow evil actions to occur.
- However, Proportionalism makes it clear that all moral evil acts are wrong, therefore upholding a strong moral authority. Only pre-moral evil acts may be considered if there is proportionate reason to do so.
- Proportionalism may not be very effective when dealing with all ethical issues because there is confusion on what is a proportionate reason to break a rule. Therefore, at best Proportionalism can only be applied in an ad-hoc way. This leads to the criticism that the theory does not treat people equally. If proportionism is applied using an ad-hoc approach, it is not treating moral agents in a universal and fair way.
- Proportionalism can be seen as ineffective when dealing with ethical issues, because it relies too heavily on the use of human reason when deciding whether a moral rule can be rejected, and not on divine authority.
- Proportionalism useable because it appears to be denying divine command. This is because Proportionalism allows for the use of human reason when deciding whether a moral principle can be rejected.
- Proportionalism is not an effective ethic when dealing ethical issues because it requires moral agents to predict future outcomes. Future outcomes are never easy to foresee, but this is what Proportionalists have to do i.e. moral agents have to make an assessment of all the good and bad involved in all the alternative possibilities. The purpose of this assessment is to determine, prior to the action itself, which of the alternatives – keeping the rule or breaking the rule, will create the greater good. This is not only difficult but also overly complex and inefficient.

Overall, candidates should engage with the debate and come to a substantiated evaluation regarding the issue raised.

Please note that this mark scheme is for WJEC, not Eduqas. Whilst the syllabus is almost identical, the exams are quite different, and the marks aren't the same.