

Emotivism	Intuitionism	Prescriptivism
<p>You can't say moral statements are 'true' or 'false' because they're just how we feel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ "X is good" is an emotional exclamation. It doesn't mean any more than saying "Wahey X!" ❖ There are no objective moral truths. ❖ You pick your moral principles by following your feelings. 	<p>You can't <i>prove</i> moral truths (just like you can't prove that the physical world exists) - you just know.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ "Good" is indefinable. ❖ Basic moral truths are self-evident to a mature mind. ❖ There are objective moral truths. 	<p>When making moral statements, we need to be consistent, imagining ourselves on the receiving end. We should want everyone to behave as we have prescribed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ "You ought to do X" is a universalisable prescription - an instruction, not a fact. ❖ You need to be informed, imaginative and consistent. ❖ There are no objective moral truths, but some moral claims are self-contradictory.

Meta-ethics

Abortion

Examples

- ❖ Catholic Nicaraguan girl, 9 years old, raped – doctors excommunicated
- ❖ 1973, Roe vs Wade – a woman has a constitutional right to abort (USA); in 2003 'Roe' changed her mind
- ❖ 2001, Rev Jepson tried to charge doctors for aborting a 28 week foetus with a cleft palette
- ❖ Under 16s don't require parental consent
- ❖ 2001, Stephen Hone failed to stop ex from aborting their child
- ❖ Rowan Williams wants laws reviewed due to scientific advancements
- ❖ Illegal abortions kill thousands in South America says the WHO
- ❖ FPA says access to abortions within 72 hours is needed
- ❖ US scientists restore sight using cells from aborted foetuses
- ❖ BMA says babies born in failed abortions must be cared for
- ❖ 'Women on waves' – Dutch abortion ship

KEY QUESTIONS

- WHEN DOES PERSONHOOD BEGIN?
- FOETUS' RIGHTS?
- MOTHER'S RIGHTS?
- FATHER'S RIGHTS?
- THOMSON – IS ABORTION SELF-DEFENSE?
- CAN FOETUSES FEEL PAIN?
- SHOULD FOETAL TISSUE/EGGS BE USED?
- IS SOME CONTRACEPTION ABORTION?
- SHOULD FOETUSES WITH DISABILITIES HAVE FEWER RIGHTS?
- SHOULD UNDER 16S HAVE PARENTAL CONSENT?



Euthanasia

Case studies and headlines

- ❖ Thomas Hyde, ALS (what Stephen Hawking has), Dr Kevorkian helped him to die in the US
- ❖ Dianne Pretty, motor neurone disease, UK courts would not let her have help to die
- ❖ Dax Cowart, extensive burns, US, was not allowed to die and suffered years of painful treatment
- ❖ Tony Bland, Hillsborough victim left in a Persistent Vegetative State (PVS) had his life support system turned off
- ❖ Euthanasia policy (alleged) for hurricane Katrina victims
- ❖ BMA no longer opposes euthanasia laws
- ❖ 'Million Dollar Baby' and 'The Sea Inside' support a pro-euthanasia stance
- ❖ Dutch doctors called for euthanasia for some newborns
- ❖ Brits travel to Switzerland to die
- ❖ Dr Kevorkian helped over 100 to die; he finally went to prison when he pressed the button for Thomas Youk (who had ALS and couldn't move to press it himself)
- ❖ The **Voluntary Euthanasia Society** is now called **Dignity in Dying**

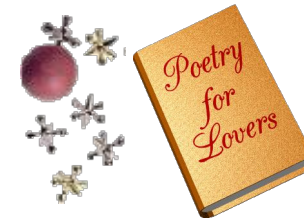
DEFINITIONS

- **VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA** – A PATIENT FREELY CHOOSES TO DIE
- **NON-VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA** – PATIENT CANNOT CHOOSE EITHER WAY (E.G. IS IN A COMA)
- **INVOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA** – PATIENT DOES NOT WISH TO DIE (E.G. NAZIS KILLING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES)
- **PASSIVE EUTHANASIA** – ALLOWING DEATH TO OCCUR; 'LETTING NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE'
- **ADVANCE DIRECTIVES (LIVING WILLS)** – STATEMENT OF HOW SOMEONE WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED IF THEY FALL SERIOUSLY ILL
- **PERSISTENT VEGETATIVE STATE (PVS)** - BRAIN-STEM DEAD WITH NO HOPE OF RECOVERY



Bentham

- ❖ Teleological
- ❖ Consequentialist
- ❖ ACT Utilitarian
- ❖ Hedonistic
- ❖ Quantitative

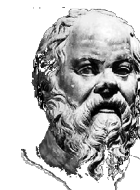


Hedonic Calculus

- REMOVEDNESS - near?
- PURITY - free from pain?
- RICHNESS - other pleasures?
- INTENSITY - powerful?
- CERTAINTY - likely?
- EXTENT - affect others?
- DURATION - long-lasting?

Mill

- ❖ RULE Utilitarian
- ❖ Qualitative
- ❖ Higher and lower pleasures



Hare Preferences	Singer Interests	Sidgwick Motives
------------------	------------------	------------------

Utilitarianism