

## Utilitarianism and Abortion

(a) Explain how Bentham's version of Utilitarianism can be used to decide on the right course of action. [33]

(b) Evaluate a Utilitarian approach to abortion. [17]

<b>T</b> – aspect of Theory	Teleological, consequentialist
<b>I</b> – ethical Issue	Does the father have any rights?
<b>C</b> – Case study	Stephen Hone tried to stop his ex-girlfriend having an abortion.
<b>K</b> – Know how it applies	Utilitarians aren't interested in 'rights'. They look only at the outcome. To work out if abortion is right in this case, you should look at how much the father would be affected if the abortion happened, how much the mother would be affected if she had the baby, and the quality of life of the child.
<b>E</b> – Evaluate the application	The argument given in this case wasn't that Hone wanted the baby more than his ex wanted an abortion. They were arguing that as the father he had a right to have a say in the decision. Utilitarianism misses the point here.
<b>T</b> – Take it further	A rule utilitarian might be interested in the rights issue. However, rule utilitarians would only allow the father to have a say if doing so led to the greater good. Allowing the fathers to have a say wouldn't work in practice because it would make many cases unresolvable if mother and father disagreed. If you forced women to have babies against their wishes, there is no guarantee that the father would be able to bring the baby up properly.

Use **Abortion – examples and issues** to complete more. Try to use different aspects of the theory, such as Hedonism (Bentham valued pleasure), Act Utilitarianism, the Hedonic Calculus, the rule of thumb, 'everyone to count for one'.

## Religious Ethics and Euthanasia

(a) Explain religious objections to euthanasia. [33]

(b) 'Religious objections to euthanasia ignore human dignity.' Discuss. [17]

<b>T</b> – aspect of Theory	Primary Precepts – Ordered Society
<b>I</b> – ethical Issue	Would people feel pressurised into euthanasia
<b>C</b> – Case study	Thomas Hyde had ALS (what Stephen Hawking has) and Dr Kevorkian helped him to end his life
<b>K</b> – Know how it applies	If we allow a law that lets people choose to die, then euthanasia is one of many options available. Someone with ALS needs constant care but might still live a very good life (like Stephen Hawking). This care may be expensive, and the patient may feel pressure from doctors and family to end their life before they want to. This would not be a decent, ordered society.
<b>E</b> – Evaluate the application	Thomas Hyde felt he had much more dignity being able to choose his fate. He had lost so much dignity through his illness. Taking this freedom away, as Natural Law would have us do, reduces his dignity.
<b>T</b> – Take it further	By allowing Hyde to end his life, we are acknowledging the worthlessness of a life with ALS. He may not see the value in his life if unable to do sports etc, but we must have a greater respect for life – Natural Law is right.

Use **Euthanasia – Case Studies** to carry this on. You should continue with Natural Law and mention Protect and preserve the innocent. You should also show how this leads to secondary precepts that are moral absolutes. You may talk about real and apparent goods (relieving pain by killing someone might be seen as an apparent good); internal and external acts (euthanasia may be well-intentioned but is still a bad exterior act); reason, and the doctrine of double effect (removal of fallopian tube works well here).

## Kant and the Right to Life

(a) Explain how Kant's ethical theory would respond to the issue of a right to life. [33]

(b) 'Kant's theory gives the wrong answers to questions about the right to life'. Discuss [17]

<b>T</b> – aspect of Theory	The Good Will
<b>I</b> – ethical Issue	Stem cell research
<b>C</b> – Case study	Scientists want to create embryos using animal eggs and human DNA
<b>K</b> – Know how it applies	Kant isn't interested in the potential benefits of stem cell research – cures for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. We find universal rules, and ur duty is to obey them. That is a good will. Would we be happy to experiment on all embryos? The real question is whether the embryo created is like a normal human embryo. If it is, then the Good Will would treat that embryo as it would treat any other human embyo, and would not do experiments. We wouldn't want to have had experiments done on the embryo that grew into us.
<b>E</b> – Evaluate the application	Kant ignores all outcomes of research. This is wrong. If the research can help millions of people, saving lots of lives, that is morally relevant and shouldn't be ignored.
<b>T</b> – Take it further	Once an embryo is created, it could grow into a human. If it did, the human would not want to have been experimented on. If we really imagine the experiments being done on an embryo that grew into us, Kant is right, we would not agree with the tests.

Right to Life covers all other case studies. Use bits of each different topic, and apply Kant's theory, including reason; deontology; and all statements of the categorical imperative (universal law, law of nature, ends in themselves).

## Natural Law and The Right to a Child

(a) Explain how the principles of Natural Law might be applied to decisions about fertility treatment. [33]

(b) 'Every adult has the right to become a parent.' Discuss. [17]

<b>T</b> – aspect of Theory	Real and apparent goods
<b>I</b> – ethical Issue	Do we have the right to have a child using PGD to act as a donor sibling?
<b>C</b> – Case study	Jamie Whitaker was dying and needed cells from a matching sibling's umbilical cord
<b>K</b> – Know how it applies	To find a match, you need to use IVF and screen the embryos by taking a cell out at the 8-cell stage. This is a risk, and there was no benefit to the new Whitaker. It is wrong to risk a person's life, and the parents would only do this because they don't know their new child yet. PGD appears to be good, but by putting the embryo at risk, you are doing an intrinsically evil act, not a real good.
<b>E</b> – Evaluate the application	The use of PGD to create a donor sibling is an example of people taking the 'right to a child' too far. Whilst reproduction is one of the main purposes of people, you should not do a bad act so that good may come of it, and putting a life at risk is bad. Natural Law would not say that you have a right to become a parent THIS WAY.
<b>T</b> – Take it further	Most infertility treatments involve mistreating and killing human life (discarding embryos), Natural Law would argue. Whilst an infertile couple have the same right to become parents as anyone else, they cannot actually do so, and this is no justification for doing something very wrong in order to have their own child.

Look at the 3 sheets **Moral issues raised by Artificial Insemination, IVF and Surrogacy**. Also, remember the case studies from Family Man: buying eggs on the internet; selling eggs to pay for IVF; using PGD to choose gender to replace a boy who died; implanting 3 embryos to improve the chances. Apply Natural Law, including Ordered society (donation of sperm/eggs and marriage/parenthood issues), Protect the innocent (discarded embryos); internal/external acts etc.

# Situation Ethics and Genetic Engineering

(a) Explain how moral relativism might be applied to genetic engineering. [33]

(b) 'Moral relativism is not the best approach to genetic engineering.' Discuss. [17]

<b>T</b> – aspect of Theory	Pragmatism
<b>I</b> – ethical Issue	Pharming
<b>C</b> – Case study	ATryn made in goats milk
<b>K</b> – Know how it applies	Situation Ethics has no concerns in principle with the use of animals to create pharmaceuticals. The animals themselves don't matter to SE. However, this is experimental, and SE would only support a treatment if it worked. ATryn was initially blocked, but was later given approval after clinical trials showed that it worked.
<b>E</b> – Evaluate the application	Pragmatism is important. No form of genetic engineering is useful if it doesn't work. In genetics, the most important goal has got to be to make it work.
<b>T</b> – Take it further	Just because a treatment works, that doesn't make it right. Many people would have concerns about using these drugs, and there may still be unpredicted side-effects that even the most pragmatic approach can't protect against.

Use the sheet with types of **Genetic Engineering** – somatic cell, germ line, enhancement, eugenics, pharming, xenotransplants, GM crops. See Ethical Studies for cloning. Apply the four working principles, the six fundamental principles, agape, situationism (as opposed to legalism and antinomianism), teleology.

# Virtue Ethics and Embryo Research

(a) Explain how Virtue Ethics could be applied to embryo research. [33]

(b) 'The problem with Virtue Ethics is that it gives no definite answers to moral problems.' Discuss. [17]

<b>T</b> – aspect of Theory	Intellectual virtues - wisdom
<b>I</b> – ethical Issue	Hybrid embryos
<b>C</b> – Case study	Cytoplasmic embryos (animal eggs with human nuclei injected in)
<b>K</b> – Know how it applies	Lots of people object to the idea of a hybrid, but Virtue Ethics says we should learn more about what's actually going on. Rather than giving an answer to the dilemma, VE says we should try and be wiser through education. The people who argued in favour of the new Bill allowing these embryos did not all agree on a way of answering moral issues. They used their wisdom, and studied the issues.
<b>E</b> – Evaluate the application	The objections to cytoplasmic embryos came mostly from religious people who objected in principle. Whilst VE doesn't give a definitive answer, it does value a rational approach. Using wisdom is more likely to find the right answer than applying religious principles that were established long before anyone could imagine these issues.
<b>T</b> – Take it further	Virtue Ethics is regularly criticised for not giving definite answers. However, other theorists don't agree. Different utilitarians give varying answers to moral problems. What Aristotle was definite about was the value of wisdom, and this seems very helpful here.

Use case studies that include embryos from the right to a child, genetic engineering, PGD. Also mention stem cell research and the Human Tissue and Embryo bill. Talk about Aristotle's theory, including teleology, the importance of reason, Eudaimonia, the greater good of the community, moral virtues and the golden mean, intellectual virtues and the cardinal virtues. Also mention MacIntyre and the context of the moral debate, the focus on character, practices etc.