



Knowledge Organiser – How do we decide what is right and wrong?

| Key Words | | | |
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| Dilemma | When none of the options in a situation are morally desirable | Paganism | God is within nature which is sacred |
| Utilitarian Maxim | The morally right action is that which maximises happiness for the greatest number people | Euthanasia | The assisted suicide of a severely unwell person, illegal in the UK |
| Divine Command Theory | What God commands is what is right or moral | Sanctity of Life | Belief that all life is sacred and belongs to God |
| Stewardship | Human responsibility to look after God's creation | Abortion | The killing of an unborn foetus or embryo |
| Khalifa | Leader or Steward in Islam (Adam was the first) | | |

| Key Ideas | | |
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| <p>Mad Axe Dilemma (Immanuel Kant)</p>  | <p>A person with an axe looking angry confronts you asking where your friend is. You think you know but telling the truth could lead to your friend's death. The other option is telling a lie ...</p> | <p>Natural moral law says to tell the truth because this follows the law of 'ordered society'. If people regularly told lies then no one could trust one another. Some may argue though that proportionally the good of saving your friend outweighs the bad of lying in this unique case.</p> <p>Utilitarianism says you should lie to the mad axe person because this will increase the chance of your friend surviving. This options maximises happiness. Not only will your friend have greater happiness you will also be happier having not lost your friend.</p> <p>Divine Command Theory says you should tell the truth because that is a command from God in Bible – do not lie. It could be argue that God has also commanded us to be loving and therefore the loving option is what we should do. Perhaps the loving option is to lie and save our friend.</p> |
| <p>Natural Moral Law</p> | <p>Right and wrong are based on reasoning and following laws (precepts).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worship God 2. Ordered Society 3. Reproduce 4. Learning 5. Defend the innocent <p>W-O-R-L-D</p> | <p>These lead to morals such as...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Religious freedom is good 2. Stealing is wrong 3. Having children is right 4. Going to school is right 5. Murder is wrong |
| <p>Stewardship / Khalifas</p>  | <p>Key Passages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (Gen 1:28) - "It is He who has appointed you vicegerent on the earth..." (Quran 6:165) | <p>Interpretations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use the earth but do so responsibly taking care of all the animals - Allah has given humans a duty to protect the earth |
| <p>Abortion</p> | <p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A foetus is inside a woman's body, therefore the women is allowed to do what she wants to her own body - If pregnancy came about through the rape the harm of having the child outweighs the loss of an abortion - In case of severe disabilities an abortion might reduce overall suffering | <p>Against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A foetus is a living thing and therefore has its own right, it is wrong to abort it - From 24 weeks a foetus has a 50% of survival - The heart and nervous system are developing well from 9 weeks therefore from this point on the foetus should be considered a human life - God knows us and loves us 'in our mothers womb' (Bible) so we are going against God's plan |
| <p>Euthanasia</p> | <p>For</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It can be the most loving thing to do in a situation, the release from pain outweighs the loss of life - Each individual has autonomy over their body and can chose to end their life | <p>Against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All life is from God and belongs to him (sanctity of life), ultimately it is in God's hands when we are born and when we die - Legalising Euthanasia could lead to more elderly feeling pressured to end their life |