



Fundamentals –Year 13 - Ethics

Key knowledge by the end of Year 13 (Students should also know the Year 12 content)

ETHICAL LANGUAGE: META-ETHICS:

META-ETHICAL THEORIES:

Naturalism - what it is and its application to absolutism

Intuitionism - what it is and its application to the term good

Emotivism - what it is and its application to relativism

-whether or not what is meant by the word 'good' is the defining question in the study of ethics

-whether or not ethical terms such as good, bad, right and wrong:

have an objective factual basis that makes them true or false in describing something, reflect only what is in the mind of the person using such terms, can be said to be meaningful or meaningless

-whether or not, from a common sense approach, people just know within themselves what is good, bad, right and wrong

SIGNIFICANT IDEAS:

CONSCIENCE:

Aquinas' theological approach –

details of this approach, including:

o ratio

o synderesis

o conscientia

o vincible ignorance

o invincible ignorance

Freud's psychological approach

details of this approach, including:

o psychosexual development

o id

o ego

o super-ego

• comparison between Aquinas and Freud:

o on the concept of guilt

o on the presence or absence of God within the workings of the conscience and super-ego

o on the process of moral decision-making

• whether conscience is linked to, or separate from, reason and the unconscious mind

• whether conscience exists at all or is instead an umbrella term covering various factors involved in moral decision-making, such as culture, environment, genetic predisposition and education.



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DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHICAL THOUGHT:

SEXUAL ETHICS:

- consideration of the following areas of sexual ethics:
 - o premarital and extramarital sex
 - o homosexuality

- the influence of developments in religious beliefs and practices on debates about the morality, legality and tolerability of these areas of sexual ethics
- traditional religious beliefs and practices regarding these areas of sexual ethics
- how these beliefs and practices have changed over time, including:
 - o key teachings influencing these beliefs and practices
 - o the ideas of religious figures and institutions
- the impact of secularism on these areas of sexual ethics
- application of the following theories to these areas of sexual ethics:
 - o natural law
 - o situation ethics
 - o Kantian ethics
 - o utilitarianism
- how these theories might be used to make moral decisions in these areas of sexual ethics
- issues raised in the application of these theories
- whether or not religious beliefs and practices concerning sex and relationships have a continuing role in the area of sexual ethics
- whether choices in the area of sexual behaviour should be entirely private and personal, or whether they should be subject to societal norms and legislation
- whether normative theories are useful in what they might say about sexual ethics

SKILLS

KEY SKILLS DEVELOPED IN YEARS 12 AND 13

- critical analysis of key texts and ethical and religious views
- evaluation of different viewpoints
- analysis of ethical and theological outlooks
- essay writing skills
- advanced literacy skills including the use of technical language
- the use of quotes to support statements