**AS Religious Studies - Ethics**

**Before we start the course, I would like you to complete the following work.**

**Massolit is a website containing short video lectures.**

**Log on to this course** [**https://massolit.io/courses/the-nativity-stories**](https://massolit.io/courses/the-nativity-stories)

**Watch the video lectures then answer the questions below. There are 5 lectures to watch.**

***To help you I have included some key vocabulary for each video, plus you can read the transcripts of the lectures if that is easier!***

Utilitarianism and Hedonic Calculus

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| **Vocabulary** | **Definition** | **Example Sentence** |
| **Utilitarianism** | A moral theory that suggests the best action is the one that maximizes happiness and minimizes unhappiness for the greatest number of people. | **Utilitarianism** argues that we should aim to create the greatest good for the greatest number of people. |
| **Egalitarian** | Relating to or believing in the principle that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities. | The **egalitarian** approach ensures that everyone has the same access to resources and opportunities. |
| **Hedonic** | Related to pleasure, especially the pursuit of pleasure as a way of life. | The **hedonic** calculus attempts to quantify pleasure and pain to determine the best course of action. |
| **Fecundity** | The ability to produce an abundance of offspring or new growth; fertility. In the context of Bentham's philosophy, it refers to the potential of an action to lead to further pleasures. | The **fecundity** of the initial investment led to numerous financial gains over the years. |
| **Purity** | In Bentham's philosophy, it refers to the extent to which a pleasure does not lead to subsequent pain or a pain does not lead to subsequent pleasure. | The **purity** of the pleasure was evident, as it did not result in any negative consequences. |
| **Prominence** | The state of being important or famous; being noticeable or well-known. | The theory gained **prominence** in the 19th century through the works of influential philosophers. |
| **Minimalist** | A person who practices or advocates minimalism, which is the pursuit of simplicity by reducing unnecessary elements. | He adopted a **minimalist** lifestyle, owning only what he truly needed. |
| **Disgust-based ethics** | An ethical framework where the moral judgment of an action is influenced by the disgust it provokes, rather than by harm caused. | **Disgust-based ethics** often judges actions as wrong if they provoke strong feelings of revulsion, regardless of whether they cause harm. |

1. **Which philosophers are most closely associated with the rise of utilitarianism in the nineteenth century?**
2. **What is the main principle of utilitarianism as described in the lecture?**
3. **Which of the following is NOT a factor in Bentham's utilitarian calculus?**
4. **What does Bentham mean by "fecundity" in the context of utilitarianism?**
5. **According to the lecture, utilitarianism is opposed to which of the following perspectives?**
6. **What does the slogan "everybody to count for one, nobody to count for more than one" signify in utilitarianism?**
7. **How does utilitarianism view actions that provoke disgust reactions according to the lecture?**
8. **What does Bentham mean by "purity" in his utilitarian calculus?**
9. **What role does "uncertainty" play in Bentham's utilitarian calculus?**
10. **What is Bentham's view on the practicality of using the hedonic calculus for everyday decisions?**

Hedonistic Theory of Well being

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| Vocabulary | Definition | Example Sentence |
| **Utilitarianism** | A theory in ethics that the best action is the one that maximizes overall happiness or pleasure. | The philosophy of **utilitarianism** focuses on actions that bring the greatest good to the greatest number of people. |
| **Hedonic Calculus** | A method proposed by Bentham for measuring the amount of pleasure or pain that a particular action would cause. | The **hedonic calculus** helps determine whether an action is morally right based on its potential pleasure or pain. |
| **Aggregation** | The process of combining multiple individual values or data points into a single summary measure. | The **aggregation** of test scores from all students provided insights into the class's overall performance. |
| **Deontic** | Relating to duty and obligation in ethics, often used to describe types of logic that involve these concepts. | The **deontic** aspect of ethics focuses on what people are morally obligated to do. |
| **Consequentialist** | A person who believes that the morality of an action is determined by its outcomes or consequences. | She approaches ethical dilemmas from a **consequentialist** perspective, considering the results of her actions. |
| **Hedonism** | The belief that pleasure or happiness is the most important goal of human life. | **Hedonism** suggests that the pursuit of pleasure is the primary or most important intrinsic good. |
| **Intellectualized** | Made intellectual or given a mental or intellectual nature, often implying a higher or more complex level of thought. | The professor's lecture was highly **intellectualized**, appealing to those who enjoy deep theoretical discussions. |
| **Aesthetic** | Concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty, often relating to art or taste. | The gallery's new exhibit was praised for its **aesthetic** appeal. |

1. **What is the first component of utilitarianism as described in the lecture?**
2. **According to the lecture, how do utilitarians typically measure individual well-being?**
3. **What is the utilitarian approach to aggregating well-being across individuals as mentioned in the lecture?**
4. **What is the utilitarian answer to the criterion of right action?**
5. **How does Bentham view the relationship between higher and lower pleasures?**
6. **What test does Mill propose to demonstrate the superiority of higher pleasures?**
7. **According to Mill, how would a person with experience in both higher and lower pleasures choose between them?**
8. **What thought experiment does Roger Crisp propose to illustrate the concept of higher pleasures?**
9. **What is the primary misunderstanding about utilitarianism mentioned in the lecture?**
10. **What does the lecture suggest about all utilitarians' stance on pleasures?**