

Welcome to a taster session in:

A Level Religious Studies



Miss Evans

What will I study for A Level Religious Studies?

Philosophy

Does the problem of evil disprove God?

What is real?

How do we know God exists?

Is there such a thing as the soul?

Is 'faith' a sufficient reason to believe in God?

Developments in Christian thought

Can you still be a Christian and commit murder?

Was Jesus really divine?

Will everyone go to heaven?

Ethics

What does it mean to do good?

Are some acts *always* wrong?

Would you kill one person to save a hundred people?

Does morality depend on the situation?

Meta-ethics seeks to answer deep questions such as what words like good and bad, right and wrong actually mean



Normative ethics tries to establish what is right and what is wrong by proposing systems for working out how human beings should behave and why

Aim of today's session:

- To understand the different branches of normative ethics
- To discover what is important to *you* when making moral decisions: the act itself or the consequence of an act?

Some systems focus on the act itself, others focus on the consequences or both and some ethical systems focus on the person

Let's test your ethics...

What did you decide to do?

What do you think about the prisoner's actions?

What factors influenced your decision?

What does this experiment tell us about moral decision making?

What are the different types of normative ethics?

Read through the information on the different types of ethical systems and answer the questions provided.



Reflection: Do you believe ethics come from beliefs (religious or philosophical ones) human psychology or something else?

Normative ethics *tries to establish what is right and what is wrong by proposing systems for working out how human beings should behave and why*



What type of normative ethics suits you best?

In pairs you are to take it in turns to interview your partner on a range of ethical dilemmas.

The type of normative ethics that suits you best will be revealed shortly!

Reflection: Were there some dilemmas that you were unsure about what to do? What does this tell us about moral decision making?

Normative ethics *tries to establish what is right and what is wrong by proposing systems for working out how human beings should behave and why*



What type of normative ethics suits you best?

Mostly A's...

Congratulations, you are a **deontologist**!

You believe that ethics should be focused on the **act** which is either intrinsically good or bad.

You may believe acts are important because you are motivated by duty or a belief that God has revealed e.g. through the Ten Commandments what acts are moral and immoral.

Mostly B's...

Congratulations you are a **teleologist**!

You believe that ethics should be based on the **consequences** of an action.

What is morally good is determined by the end result e.g. telling a lie to your friend may be justified if it brings about pleasure or reduces pain.

Teleologists also tend to focus on the numbers affected by moral decisions.

Mostly C's...

Congratulations you are a **hybrid**!

You believe that ethics should be focused on **both** the act and the consequence. You believe in following rules but in extreme cases, you may perform a bad act to achieve a loving outcome.

Or neither an act-centred or consequence-centred approach suits you, so you prefer a **person-centred** approach to ethics.

Normative ethics tries to establish what is right and what is wrong by proposing systems for working out how human beings should behave and why

