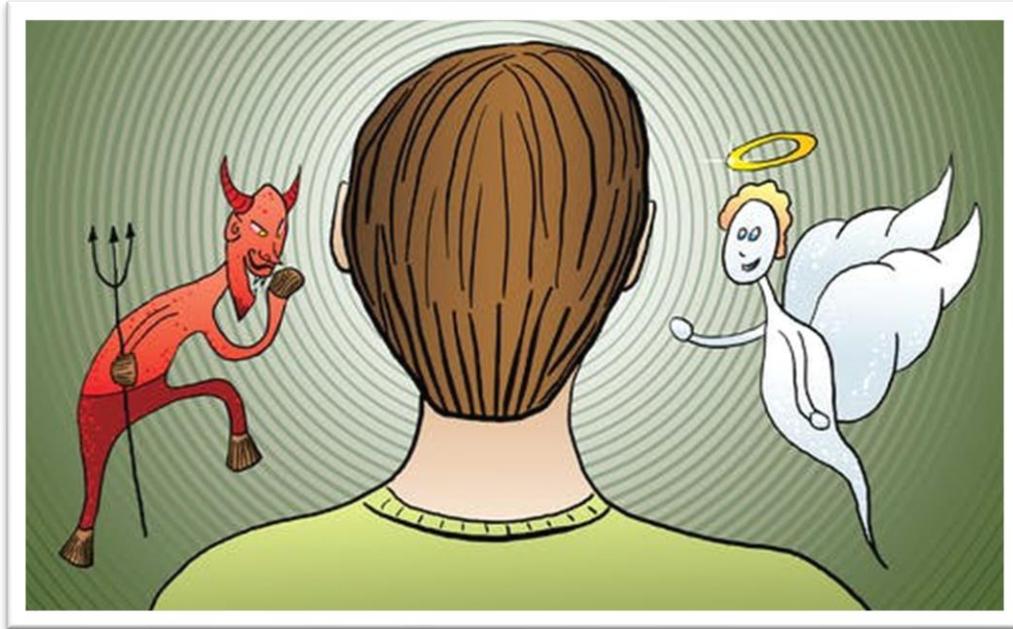


Year 9 RS



Topic 1 – Ethics and Morality

Knowledge and Assessment Organiser

Student name:



How do issues of ethics and morality effect our everyday lives?

What's the Story?



My name is Matthew and I am 11 years old. I have spent almost my entire life waiting for a transplant, but recently I finally received the new kidney that I so desperately needed. When I was only five weeks old, I was diagnosed with a rare kidney condition.

My family were told that I would not survive childhood without a transplant. Both of my kidneys were removed before I was five-years-old and in the time that I've been waiting for a donor I relied upon long daily dialysis sessions to keep me well.

Just 'getting a new kidney' was not a straight forward option for me. I couldn't just use any kidney as I was antibody sensitive to 99% of the population (this means that my body would have rejected it). Despite this I never gave up hope. Finally, someone heard my story.

The person that donated their kidney to me was called a living donor, they came forward to donate one of their kidneys to me after hearing my story.

So far so good after the transplant, I'm doing well. My family and I cannot thank my donor enough for this incredible gift. It will change my life and life for my whole family.

There are thousands of people who need a transplant like me and are going through what I have been through. Organ donation is an amazing gift but not all patients will have a suitable living donor and most will get their transplants thanks to the generosity of people donating their organs after death. Even then though, not everyone *likes* the idea of organ donation – some people feel like it is not natural, some people believe you shouldn't mess with what God created; maybe they believe an illness is a test from God.

Other people may think that we should always try to do what Jesus said and "love thy neighbour" – therefore helping people through organ donation is a good thing. What do you think?



Why does this matter?

Many 'ethical' issues are to do with the human body and life are controversial. People have very strong ideas as to whether certain actions are right or wrong.

Sounds familiar?

During this unit of work you will explore what ethics means. You may have heard the term 'ethics' used on news reports and social media. You will *definitely* have watched movies where the characters have to decide whether a situation is ethical or not.

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|| **Did you know...?**

|| For over 25 years, The Simpsons has been one of the most popular TV shows in the
|| United States and throughout the world, portraying a dysfunctional family living in the
|| fictional town of Springfield.

|| Several episodes of The Simpsons have focused on faith, religion and spirituality over
|| the series' run, presenting America's diversity. Many different characters actively
|| practice a wide variety of religions. Different denominations of Christianity are mocked
|| most often. These religious episodes have sometimes drawn significant criticism from
|| religious groups. However, it would be misleading to characterize The Simpsons as
|| anti-religious, as the programme is generally warm-hearted, and some episodes can
|| even be described as spiritual in nature.

SCAN ME





How do issues of ethics and morality effect our everyday lives



1. What is a moral dilemma?



2. How do I know the difference between right and wrong?



3. What is the difference between relative and absolute morality?



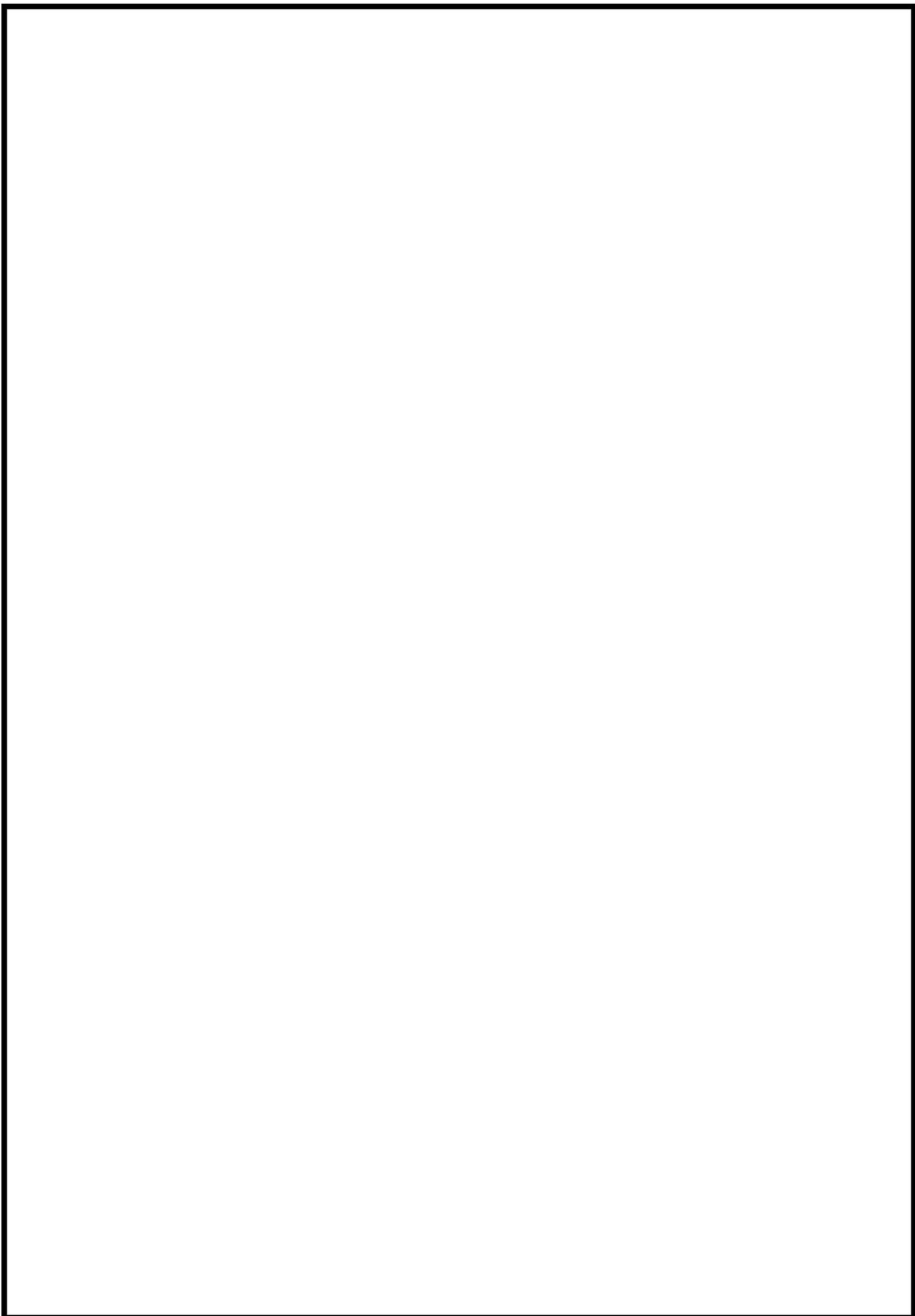
4. What is our conscience?



5. How do our intentions effect the way we make decisions?



6. Should we consider the outcome when we make decisions?



Essential Knowledge

Key Words

Blame – to say or think that someone or something is responsible for an accident, problem, or bad situation.

Evidence - facts or physical signs that help to prove something.

Ethics – is the study of morality.

Context - the setting for an event, statement, or idea, so that it can be fully understood.

Morality – is the study of right and wrong.

Moral issue – is a situation where you have to decide what is right or wrong.

Free will – The idea that people can choose what to do and are responsible for their own actions.

Control - The power to make decisions about something and decide what should happen.

Alternative- Another possibility.

Collateral damage – Negative side effects of some decisions.

Euthanasia - Allowing an individual the chance to end their life, usually if they are unable to commit suicide.

Hippocratic oath - A promise made by doctors to preserve life and care for their patients.

Humanity - The human race.

Passive - Accepting or allowing something to happen without active response or resistance.

Sanctity of life - The belief that life is special and only God has the right to end it.

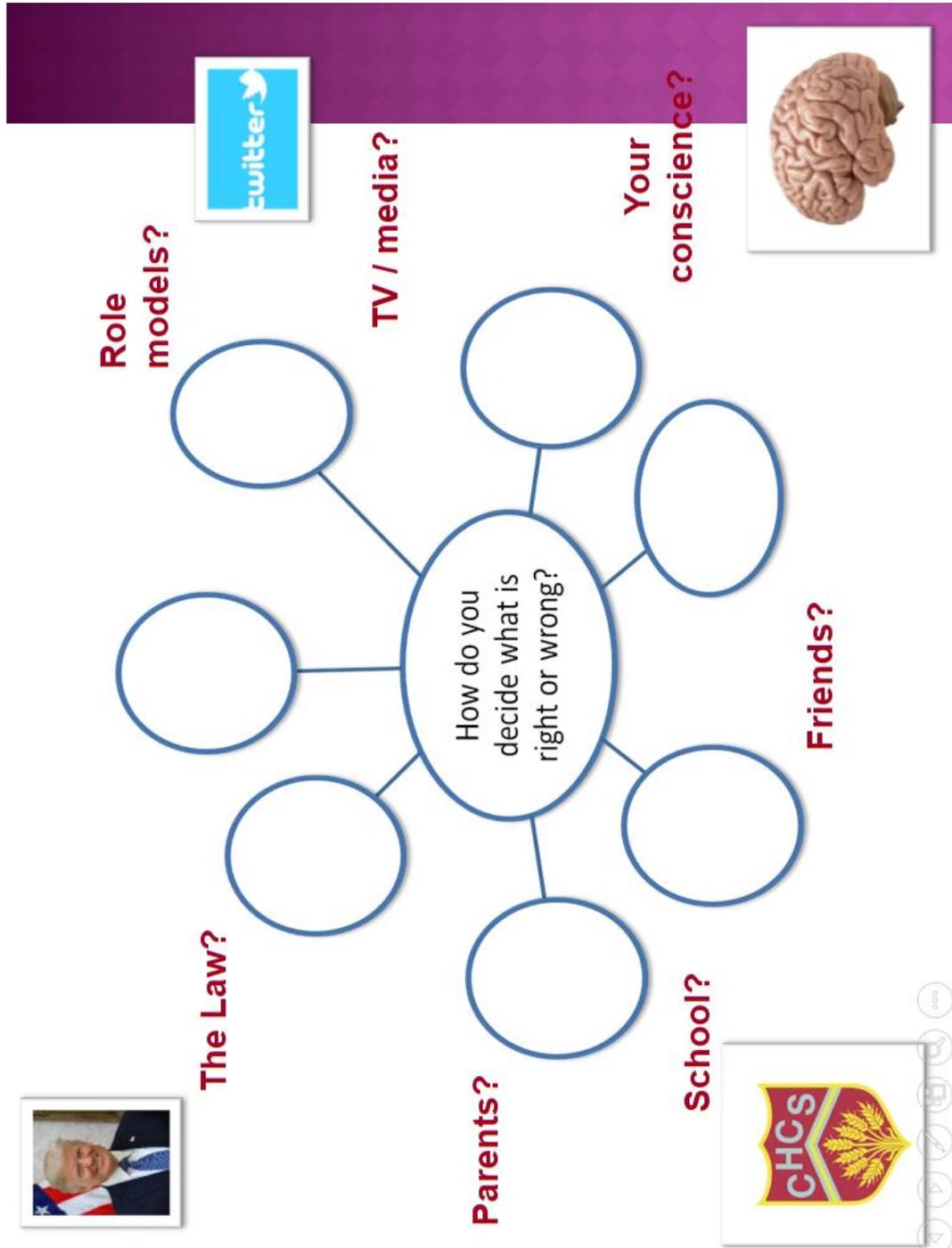
Intention – An idea or plan of what you are going to do.

Outcome – The outcome of an activity, process, or situation is the situation that exists at the end of it.

Right – If something is right, it is correct and agrees with the facts.

Wrong - If you say there is something wrong, you mean there is something unsatisfactory about the situation, person, or thing you are talking about.

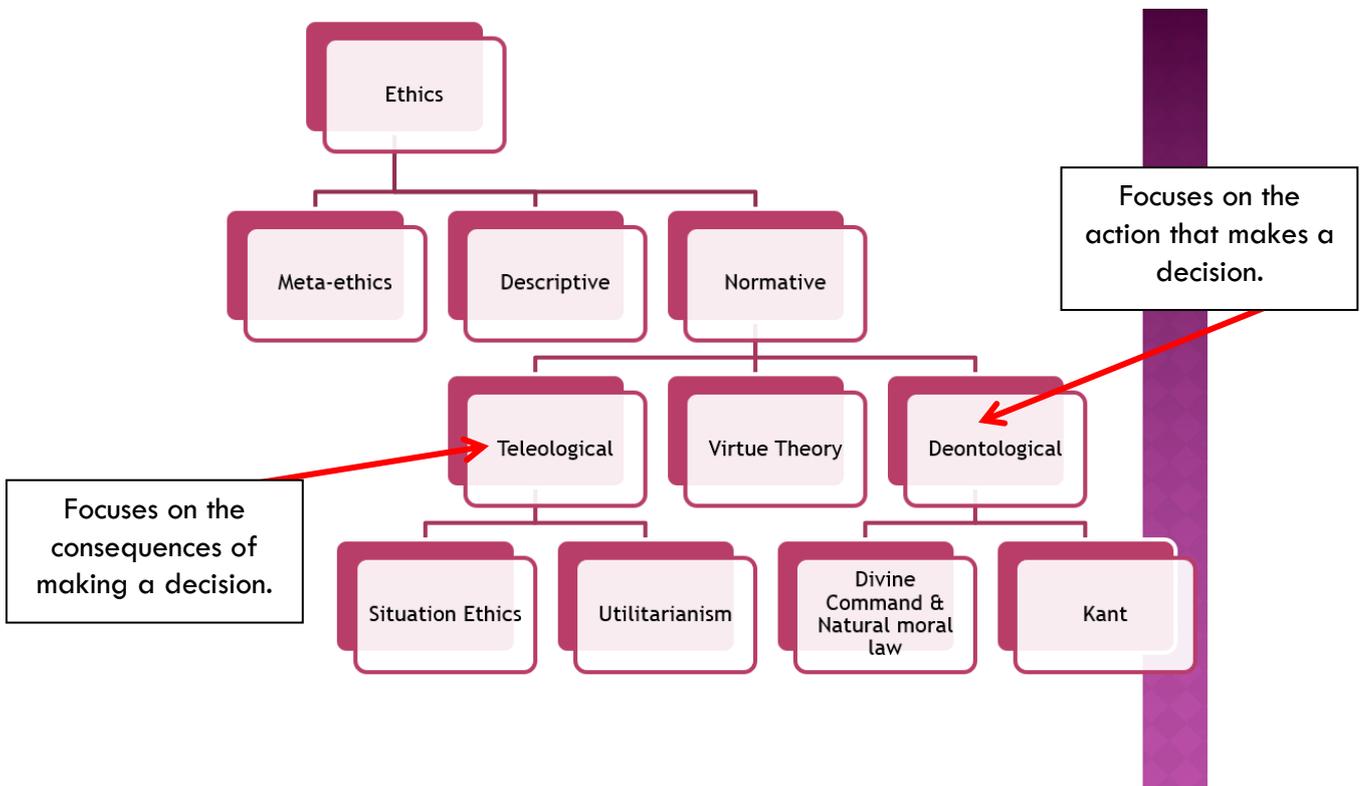
What influences your decisions?



BIG QUESTIONS

1. If I do a good thing for a bad reason, does it matter?
2. Do the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one?
3. Is what's wrong for you necessarily wrong for me?
4. Is an action right or wrong depending on the situation?
5. Are we free to make moral choices?
6. Is being moral about following rules?
7. Can we have morals without religion?
8. Should I help my family before I help a stranger?

Different types of ethics



Revision Cycle

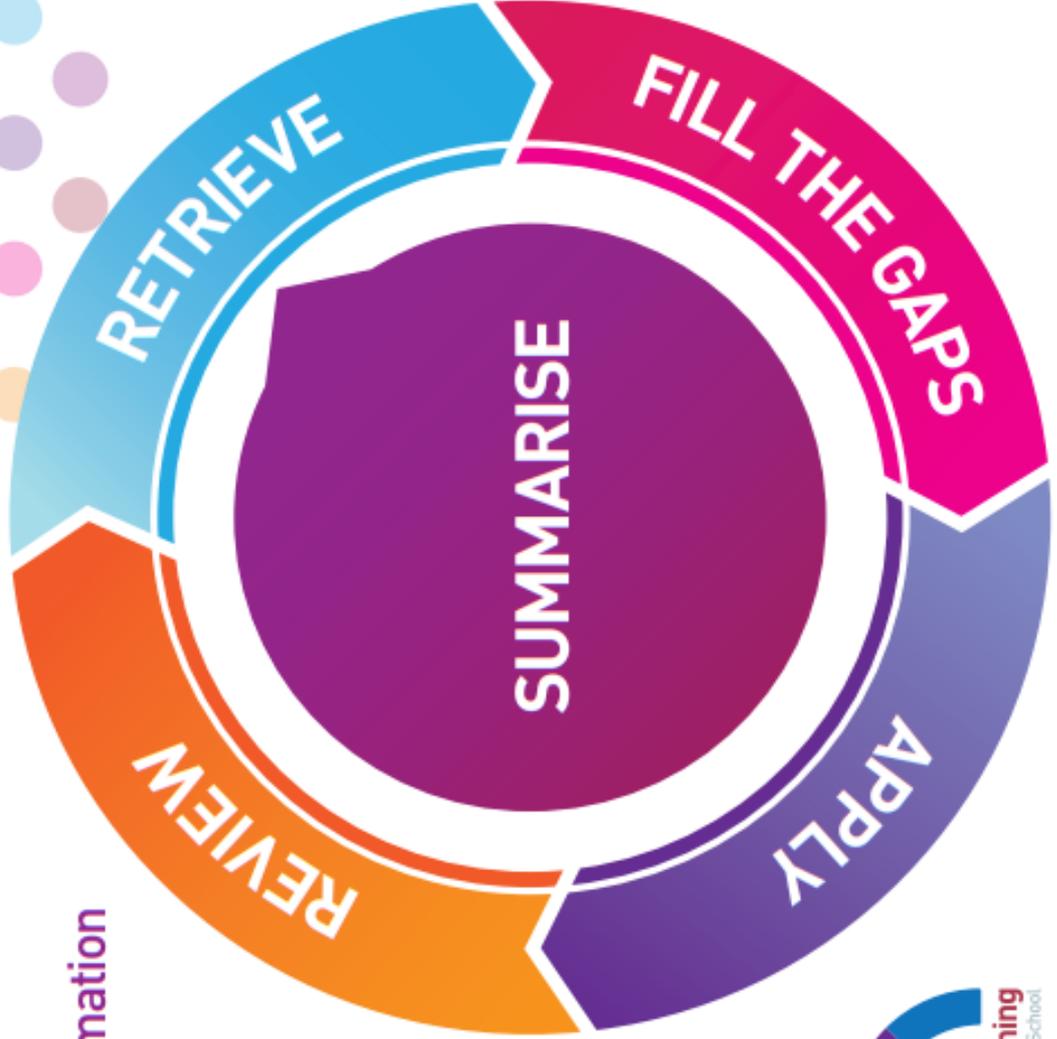
1. SUMMARISE: shorten information

2. RETRIEVE: find out what you know

3. FILL THE GAPS: look at what you don't remember

4. APPLY: practice using the information

5. REVIEW: reflect on how you have done and repeat



Model assessment answer and tips

1. Outline a moral dilemma.
 - i. Choose a moral decision someone might have to make (like abortion, euthanasia, divorce, etc.)
 - ii. Explain why it is controversial (why people disagree about whether it's right or wrong) and what the current laws or attitudes are in the UK.

Abortion (ending a pregnancy artificially) is thought to be a moral issue because it is seen as very controversial: choosing whether a developing foetus lives or dies. Currently in England, a woman can get an abortion up to 24 weeks into her pregnancy, if two doctors agree to it. Some people see this as wrong because they believe that from conception the foetus should be classed as a person, a full human life, therefore to abort it is the same as murder.

Other people however think that a woman should have the right to choose what happens to her body (pro-choice), and if she doesn't wish to continue with the pregnancy she should be allowed to have an abortion. Another issue is that the foetus is not fully developed like a baby that has been born; this makes some people believe that it is ok to abort it.

2. Explain what you would do in this situation and why.
 - i. Put yourself in the shoes of the person in your moral dilemma. Talk about what action you would take and why.
 - ii. For example – 'I would choose to steal the goods because I know that it will benefit me and the child, and will only have a small impact on the big company I am stealing from.'
 - iii. Talk about whether you are a relativist or an absolutist, what your conscience might tell you to do, if you would listen to your conscience, etc.
3. "Your moral issue is always wrong."

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- refer to a religious view
- give developed arguments to support this statement
- give developed arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

Did you know...?

My Sister's Keeper was a 2009 movie based on a book of the same title.

The story explored whether what the mother in the film was doing was ethical: taking blood, tissue and organs from one child to save the life of another child.

What do you think?



MY TRACK	D	C	B	A
<p>What your work looked like</p>	<p>You have included a brief statement of your point of view on a moral issue.</p> <p>You have not used key terms in your work or have tried to, but have not used them in quite the right way.</p>	<p>You have explained what your chosen moral issue is and began to think about the actions you would take in the situation.</p> <p>You have attempted to use some key terms in your work.</p>	<p>You have included an explanation of your chosen moral issue and included some evidence to explain the actions you would take in the situation and those of others.</p> <p>You have used several key terms in your work correctly.</p>	<p>You have included a detailed explanation of your chosen moral issue and applied key ideas to it (e.g. intention/outcome).</p> <p>You have considered a range of views on the issues (and have tried to counter-argue them) and have backed them up using a range of evidence.</p> <p>You have used a range of key terms correctly to help explain your ideas.</p>

Retrieval Quiz

When you can answer all the questions on this page without looking at any notes, you are ready for the exam!

1) What language does the word 'Ethics' originate from?

2) What is absolute morality?

3) What is relative morality?

4) What does WWJD stand for?

5) Who was Jeremy Bentham?

6) What does our conscience do?

7) What is the different between intention and outcome?

8) What is an 'ethical dilemma'?

9) Name three ethical issues in contemporary society?

Answers

1) What language does the word 'Ethics' originate from?

Ethics (from the Ancient Greek "ethikos", meaning "arising from habit"; also Morality), a major branch of philosophy, is the study of value, or morals and morality. It covers the analysis and employment of concepts such as right, wrong, good, evil, and responsibility.

2) What is absolute morality?

If you believe in absolute morality, you will have faith that there is a right course of action to take in a moral dilemma, which is true in all situations regardless of culture, religious tradition, time or age. Certain actions are wrong in all circumstances.

3) What is relative morality?

If you believe in relative morality you would agree that different courses of action might be needed in different situations.

How would a follower of this sort of morality respond to the commandment Do not kill? They would agree that killing is wrong. However, they would look at a range of other issues as well. For example, they might say that killing is necessary in a particular situation, such as in the case of abortion, if continuing the pregnancy would result in the birth of a severely disabled child, or if the mother had been raped.

4) What does WWJD stand for?

The phrase "What would Jesus do?", often abbreviated to WWJD, is often printed on a bracelet that a Christian will wear to help them make moral decisions.

5) Who was Jeremy Bentham?

Jeremy Bentham was an English philosopher and social reformer regarded as the founder of modern utilitarianism. Bentham came up with the principle that "it is the greatest happiness of the greatest number that is the measure of right and wrong."

6) Name three ethical issues in contemporary society?

*Abortion
Animal Testing
Euthanasia
Fertility Treatments
Etc*

7) What is the different between intention and outcome?

Intention is what you intend to do in a situation and an outcome is the result of that decision.

8) What is an 'ethical dilemma'?

A situation when you are faced with a difficult decision. You will be unsure of what the right thing to is, and there will be no clear right or wrong answer.

9) Name three ethical issues in contemporary society?

*Abortion
The death penalty
Animal testing*

Articles for Wider Reading and Flipped Learning



Scan the QR code on your phone (or read below) to read more about the ethical dilemma of whether everyone should be wearing face masks. Yes or no?

SCAN ME



Coronavirus: should everyone be wearing face masks?

No robust evidence ordinary masks stop wearers getting infected but some experts say they could make a big difference

Wednesday 15th April 2020 By Sarah Boseley

1 Many people are choosing to cover their mouth and nose with online-bought or homemade masks or scarves,
2 in spite of the advice of the World Health Organization and, in the UK, from Public Health England, that
3 they are no protection against coronavirus.

4 Yet one country after another has decided to depart from the WHO guidance and rule that masks should
5 be worn – most notably the US.

6 To add to the confusion, on Monday, Sir Patrick Vallance, the UK government's chief scientific adviser,
7 said the UK position on masks was under review and would change if the scientific evidence warranted
8 it.

9 "The virus isn't going to go away and we don't know if people who have had the virus stay immune
10 afterwards," he told the BBC, adding: "Yes, we will have to wear masks."

11 Despite the mixed messages, the WHO guidance updated a week ago, has remained consistent.
12 It has stuck to the line that masks are for healthcare workers – not the public.

13 "Wearing a medical mask is one of the prevention measures that can limit the spread of certain
14 respiratory viral diseases, including Covid-19. However, the use of a mask alone is insufficient to
15 provide an adequate level of protection, and other measures should also be adopted," it stated.

16 Underlying WHO's concerns are the shortage of high-quality protective masks for frontline healthcare
17 workers.

18 There is also concern the public will not understand how to use a mask and may get infected if they
19 come into contact with the virus when they take it off and then touch their faces.

20 Most of all, there is no robust scientific evidence – in the form of trials – that ordinary masks block the
21 virus from infecting people who wear them.

22 N95 masks, worn by doctors and nurses who are treating people with Covid-19, certainly do. But the
23 virus particles are thought to pass through other types of mask.

24 Nevertheless, masks do have a role when used by people who are already infected by the virus.

25 It is accepted that they can block the transmission to other people. Given that many people with Covid-
26 19 do not show any symptoms for the first days after they are infected, masks clearly have a potential
27 role to play if everyone wears them.

28 In the US, Donald Trump has advised people to wear masks whenever they go out, while stressing it is
29 not compulsory, citing advice from the Centers for Disease Control. In France, the Academy of Medicine
30 has recommended the use of a "general public" mask – to differentiate it from the mask used by
31 healthcare workers.

32 There is now increasing pressure for the UK stance on masks to change. Even marginal gains could
33 make a difference is at the heart of the argument.

34 Prof Trisha Greenhalgh from the Nuffield department of primary care health sciences at the University of
35 Oxford, and colleagues wrote a paper published by the British Medical Journal last week that argued in
36 favour of "the precautionary principle".

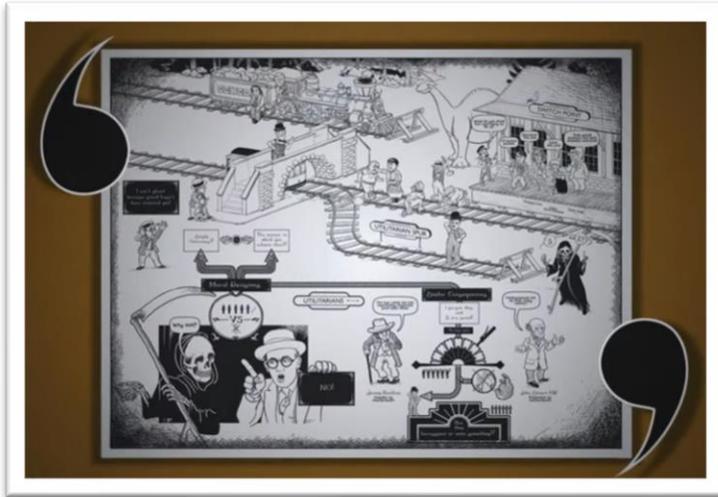
37 The standard level of scientific evidence is no good in this issue, she told the Guardian. Randomised
38 controlled trials are the gold standard in drug development, but not appropriate to face masks in a
39 pandemic, she said.

40 "The point is we have now got a hugely complex issue going on. The last thing we need is a controlled
41 experiment. We need to follow the logic of complex systems,."

42 Greenhalgh thinks the whole population of the UK should wear masks – just as they do in South Korea,
43 where the epidemic curve is far lower than ours.

44 **We could make that acceptable, she said, by making it fun – encouraging people to make and**
45 **personalise their own.**

46 **Even if masks do not become the norm, it is quite possible they will anyway become part of the strategy**
47 **for the exit from lockdown, at which point not only will every possible way of preventing new**
48 **infections be considered, but the public will be so keen to resume “normal” life that it is hard to imagine**
49 **anyone refusing to comply.**



Scan the QR code on your phone to read more about the ethical dilemma known as 'The Trolley Problem' – this will challenge you (it's going into A-Level RE!)

SCAN ME

