

Summer Bridging Work - A Level Religious Studies

Part 2 – Ethics

Ethics is deciding between what's Right and Wrong

Throughout life we make Ethical decisions as to what is the correct, or right course of action when we make a decision. We weigh up the consequences and decide based on the outcome what decision to make. Each Ethical theory that we will learn will have a different focus as to what will produce the best outcome. The first topic is called Utilitarianism and is about acting in a way that will produce the most amount of Happiness or Pleasure.

Task 1: Read this quote and WRITE in great detail (1 side) what you think it means:

“It is better to be a human dissatisfied than a pig satisfied; better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied”

Task 2: Read the Textbook (Green) or if you want a challenge the PDF Liberty JSMill and answer the questions:

- 1. What is your understanding of the PDF? What was Mill saying about pleasure/Happiness?**
- 2. Come up with five examples of Higher pleasures and explain why you think they are Higher**
- 3. Are there any negatives with Mills development of Bentham's theory and why do you think they are negatives?**
- 4. Does choosing what makes us happy provide a good basis for helping us to make moral decisions? Discuss**

The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others.

- John Stuart Mill

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