

An Introduction to Ethical Terms

Deontological

Teleological

Subjective
morality

Objective
morality

Absolutism

Relativism

Research the
definitions on the left

Then

Match the
word to its
definition



When moral judgements are based on personal opinions.

The idea that actions are inherently right or wrong.

What is right / wrong depends on the circumstances.

When moral judgements are based on 'ends' (consequences)

When moral judgements are based on impartial values / rules.

The idea that moral rules should always be followed.

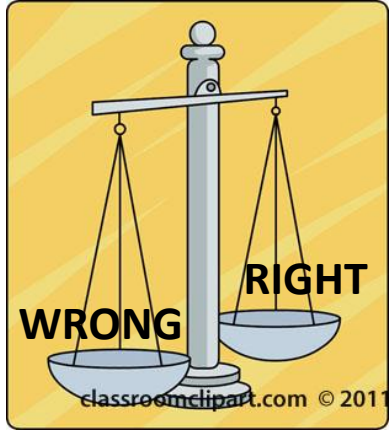
An Introduction to Ethical Terms

- Deontological
- Teleological
- Subjective morality
- Objective morality
- Absolutism
- Relativism

- When moral judgements are based on personal opinions.
- The idea that actions are inherently right or wrong.
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Deontological

Actions are 'inherently' right or wrong. The nature of the action itself makes it right or wrong.

For example, giving money to charity shows generosity and a desire to help others, and so it could be argued that this means it is an inherently right action. Lying, however, shows an intent to deceive others, and so it could be argued it is inherently wrong to lie.



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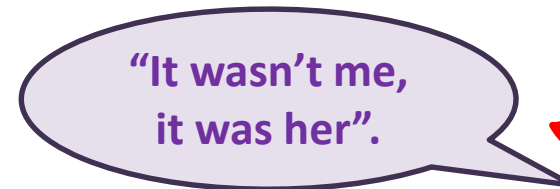
Teleological

Actions should be judged on their telos (end / effect / consequence). This means nothing is inherently right or wrong.

For example, if you know where someone is hiding from a person who wants to harm them, and you lie about where they are, that has the effect of protecting someone from harm, and so it is the right action. However, if you have done something wrong and then claim that someone else did it, that has the effect of an innocent person being blamed / punished while the guilty person gets away with it, so it is the wrong action.



“I don’t know where he is”.



“It wasn’t me, it was her”.

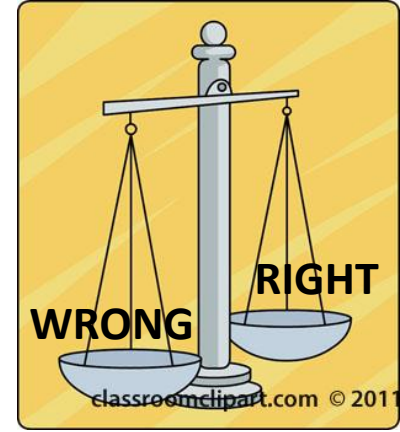


What are the positives and negatives of each?

Deontological

vs

Teleological



+

Different ideas about which actions are inherently right / wrong

Can't predict consequences for certain

-

Clear-cut – no uncertainty about right / wrong.

What about the motive?

Inflexible – doesn't consider consequences

We usually do want to consider consequences before acting

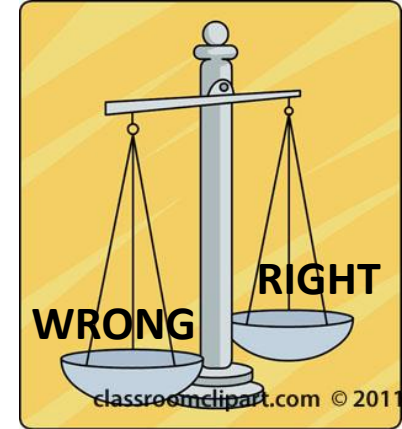
Allows us to adapt morality to situation

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Objective morality

When a person makes moral judgements based on a source of morality external to themselves. This could be a person, a Holy Book, a set of rules / laws.

For example, a person who says that euthanasia is wrong may be basing this judgement on the fact that it is illegal in the UK, or on religious teachings eg 'Do not kill'.

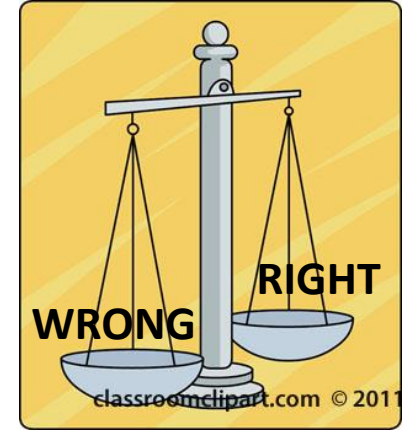


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Subjective morality

When a person is their own moral authority. They may be influenced by others, but they decide for themselves what they think is right and wrong.

For example, they may always want to follow their own conscience, no matter who disagrees, or they may make decisions based on their own past experiences.

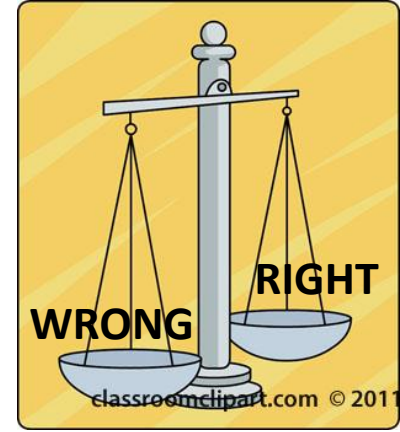


What are the positives and negatives of each?

Subjective

vs

Objective



Encourages individual responsibility for actions.

Leads to disagreements

No agreement on who has moral authority (who to listen to)

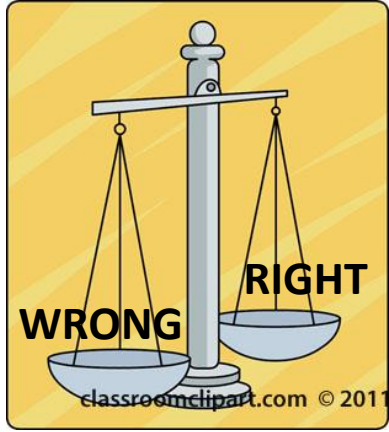
Some moral authorities disagree (eg law allows abortion, Pope doesn't)

Respects our own opinions.

Do all opinions deserve respect? eg a racist opinion

Provides moral guidance to help us be good.

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Absolutism

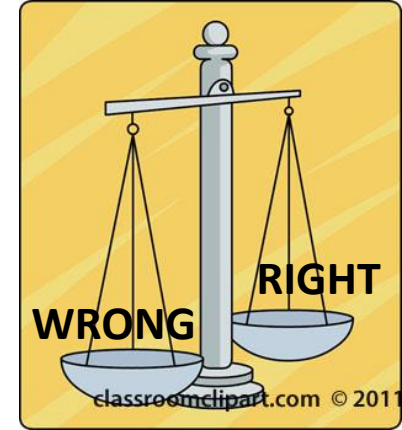
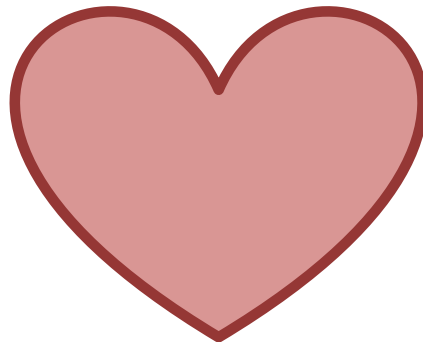
This is the idea that moral rules most never be broken - they are to be kept absolutely, in any situation. Breaking a moral rule can never be justified. For example, the Ten Commandments are often thought of as rules that should not be broken.



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Relativism

Relativists argue that there can be no universal moral rules, for all people at all times, because what is right and wrong depends on the situation. In some circumstances, it may be right to break a moral rule. The theory of Situation Ethics is relativist, as it claims you do the most loving thing, even if that means breaking a rule; for example, the Bible states that Jesus healed people on the Sabbath, even though that meant breaking the rule about not working on the Sabbath.

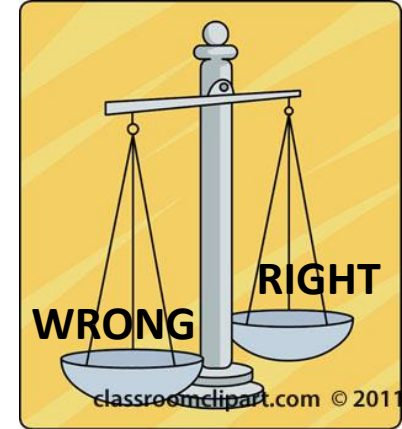


What are the positives and negatives of each?

Absolutist

vs

Relativist



+

Inflexible – doesn't take the situation into account

Which set of rules should be followed?

-

Encourages us to think about the effects of our actions on others.

Following a set of rules reduces dilemmas

Can lead to dilemmas and disagreements

Some rules should always be kept eg do not abuse children.

Same rules for everyone – it is fair

Takes situation into account.

Hour 2

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/intro_1.shtml

Task 1: Using the link above create a mind map titled 'ethics'

Task 2: summarise what ethics is in no more than 50 words

Task 3: Are ethics important within modern society?

Challenge: evaluate your answer for task 3

Hour 3

KQ: What does God command?

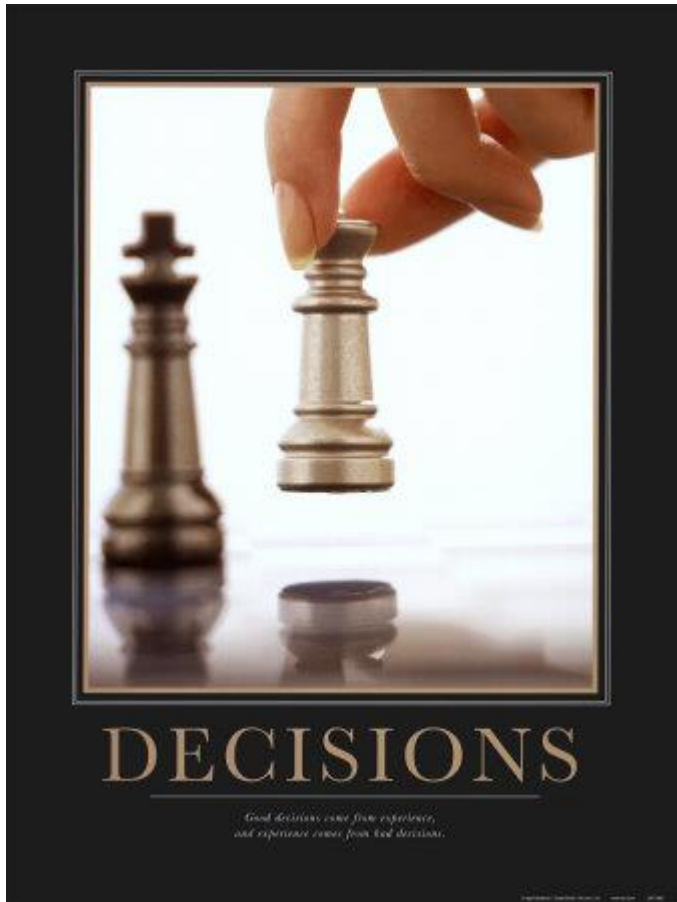
Aim:

- To understand the importance of law within religion.
- To explain the importance of the ten commandments for Christians and Jews.
- To understand that these are laws that God has commanded.

Tasks:

1. Why do we have rules?
2. Do we have to abide by those rules?
3. Does everybody abide by the rules?
4. What happens if we don't?
5. Is it ever ok to break the law?
6. Should we ever break a rule?
7. If there is a 'good reason' for it, is it ever ok to break a rule or the law? Speed through traffic? Steal food? Steal a car? Burgle a house?
8. What if it is to help a stranger?
9. What if it is to help a friend or family member?

Morality



Morality is your sense of right and wrong and moral decisions are based on right or wrong actions.

Which one is a moral decision and why?

- Deciding where to go on Friday night
- Deciding whether to steal.



Morality

There are **two** types of decision making:

- **Absolute morality** (always right or wrong) - a situation where there is little doubt that the action is right or wrong.
- **Relative morality** (sometimes right or wrong)- morality is not simple. We have to weigh up what is right or wrong in the circumstances.

From the list below, which would be relative or absolute morality and why?

- Murder
- Racism
- Drugs
- Stealing
- Drink Driving
- Abortion
- Speeding

Create a mind map with ideas about how you make the choice to do right or wrong



The Bible (The word of God)

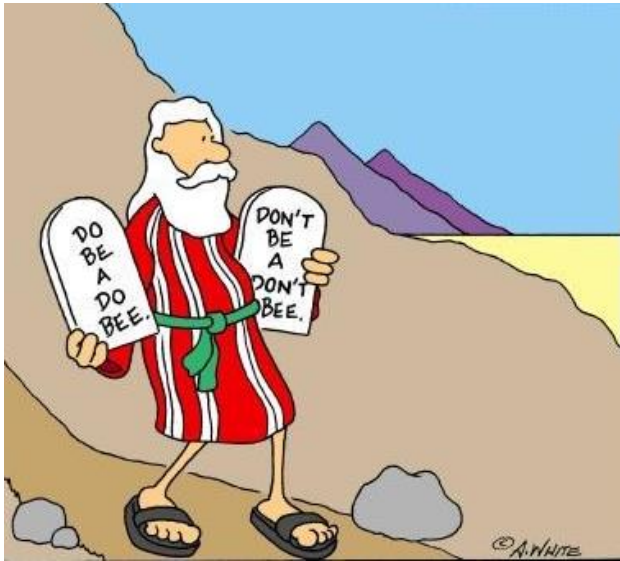


When Christians or Jews want to know how God wants them to live, an obvious place to look is in the teachings of the Bible.

Many of the teachings and stories have messages for people to think about and discuss with others. But it is not always that straight forward.

Why do you think this is?

The Ten Commandments



1. You shall have no other Gods before me.
2. You shall not worship idols.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord.
4. Keep the Sabbath holy.
5. Honour your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not lie.
10. You shall not covet (be jealous).

1. Are there any of the Ten Commandments that are out dated?
2. Design a new set of Rules For Living and create at least 5 new rules that would be relevant to society today. What are they?
3. Can you explain why you have chosen some of the new added rules?

1. Why do you think it is important to have rules in religion?
2. What happens if you break a rule in religion?
3. What would happen if people didn't have rules to show them what to do?
4. What do you think the term 'Divine command' means?

Hour 4

Abraham and Isaac

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3c3gTwW-ME>

The story of Abraham is all about trust and sacrifice. Watch the clip and then answer the questions

1. Trust is when you rely on someone or something to keep you from harm.

Think of two examples (real or made up) of a situation when you trust someone or something.

2. Sacrifice is when you give up something that is precious to you.

- Think of two examples (real or made up) of a situation when you have sacrificed something important for someone else.

3. How do you think Isaac felt towards Abraham and God after the event?

4. Why did Abraham trust God? Give as many reasons as you can.

5. What sort of doubts do you think Abraham had? Explain your answer.

6. The story of Abraham is considered to be a great test of faith, for God to see how much Abraham trusted him. What might different people think about the story? Explain giving lots of reasons.

7. Last lesson you looked at the term Divine Command. How is this story an example of Divine Command?

Hour 5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMOD7ofD9Ck>

1. Watch the video
2. What does Divine Command theory mean?
3. What is the dilemma? (Does God say things because...)
4. Split a page in half, on one side explain the first horn of the dilemma, on the other side, explain the second horn of the dilemma.