

Humanist Ethics

Contrast Humanist and Religious attitudes to decision making.

Explain how humanists decide what is wrong.

Define the Golden rule.

Homework:

Write a story about a moral dilemma. Show a humanist and religious character and how they might respond differently.

Write about a moral dilemma. Show how not all humanists would respond the same way.

Research intrinsic and extrinsic motivation and compare to humanist beliefs on morality.

POWER OF 3



If these are the answers what are the questions?

LL: Agnostic

LT: Worship

LY: sacrifice

KEYWORDS

How many words can you define?

Morals

Ethics

Empathy

Respect

Compassion

Dignity

Responsibility

Altruism

Sentient Beings

Challenge:

How would humanists use these words to help them figure out right from wrong? What do you think about their method?

The Golden Rule



“Treat other people as you’d want to be treated”

- Humanists will use this rule to help them determine what they should do.
- They also believe they must make their decisions using reason, empathy and concern for other humans and sentient beings (beings that can feel.)

[Rule #1 - The Golden Rule.mp4](#)



These hearts show just some of the places that have a principle like the Golden Rule. See some examples below.

- ‘Do not do to others that which would anger you if it was done to you.’ -Greece
- ‘He should not wish for others what he does not wish for himself.’ -Iran
- ‘None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brothers what he wishes for himself.’ -Saudi Arabia
- ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ -Israel

KEY INFORMATION

- We should **treat others the way we would like to be treated**
- If everyone tries to do the right thing, we can **make the world a better place**; if everyone does the wrong thing, then everyone will be worse off
- Making other people happy can **make us happy**

Why do humanists believe we should be good?

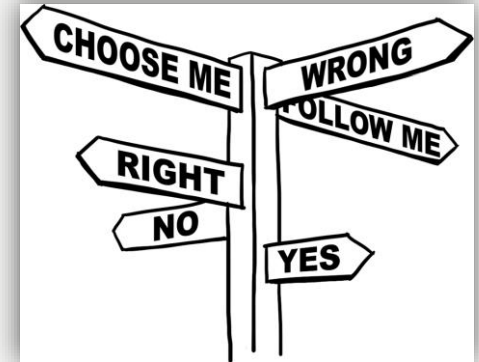
- Humanists don't believe we will be rewarded or punished for our behaviour after we die.
- If this were the only reason to be good, then we might not do the right thing if we saw no opportunity for reward or danger of punishment.



What would a Humanist do?

Think about the moral dilemma and discuss **what you would do and why.**

Now think about what a humanist would do and why they would do it.



Remember the reasons humanists believe we should be good:

- We should treat others the way we would like to be treated
- If everyone tries to do the right thing, we can make the world a better place; if everyone does the wrong thing, then everyone will be worse off
- Making other people happy can make us happy

Moral Dilemma

Everyone knows that it is wrong to murder but what is considered murder? Look at the following things and explain why they may or may not be murder:

- i. **Killing someone because they cheated on you**
 - ii. **Killing a soldier in war who has his gun pointed at you**
 - iii. **Helping someone die who is dying from an illness and wants to end their life now**
 - iv. **Killing a cow for a burger**
- **What would humanists think about these situations?**
 - Which of these situations breaks the rule “Do not kill/murder”? If it is okay to break them in some situations, is the rule pointless? Explain.
 - **What about other religious people- Buddhists or Hindus? Think about how they view life and reincarnation.**

Moral Dilemma

Five people have fallen onto a train track and a train is hurtling towards them. It is too late for the train to stop. You are the signal man and by flicking a switch you can divert the train onto a different track, saving the people who have fallen. On the other track is a workman who will be hit by the train if you divert it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOpf6KcWYyw>

Challenge: can you put one life over another?
Is there a greatest good?

REMEMBER: Humanists make their ethical decisions based on reason, empathy and a concern for human beings and other sentient beings.

Moral Dilemma

A woman you know has robbed a bank, but instead of keeping the money, she has given it to an orphanage so that it can afford to feed, clothe, and care for children in need. The police have come to ask you if you know who committed the crime. You can tell them who did it, but if you do, there is a good chance the woman will be caught, all the money will be returned to the bank and the orphanage will be forced to close down.

What would humanists do?

What if the woman had instead stolen from just one individual rich person?

REMEMBER: Humanists make their ethical decisions based on reason, empathy and a concern for human beings and other sentient beings.

Philosopher's Corner

"Religion can actually lead good people to do bad things." Discuss both viewpoints on this statement, giving examples.

PLENARY:

"Religion is the only way we can know right from wrong." (12 marks) **TO BE MARKED WITH FEEDBACK.**

You must include:

- Humanist views
- Religious views- Explained in a PEA paragraph, including quotes from a religious book
- Your own opinion on the statement
- Whether you agree with humanists/religious people and the strengths and weaknesses of their arguments.