

Philosophy Made Simple

Ethics 3: Utilitarianism (pp. 32-35)

Always answer on a separate sheet in full sentences and with examples where possible. Avoid starting with “Because”, “So”, “That” or “Which”. Blend quotes into your own sentences if you can’t paraphrase an idea or phrase. (/14)

Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill

- i. List three beliefs held by Bentham that made him a radical in late 18th and early 19th century Britain. (1)
- ii. Provide two examples that prove JS Mill was a gifted prodigy. (2)
- iii. Explain the basic ethical principle of utilitarianism. (1)
- iv. Why is utilitarianism a hedonistic philosophy, according to its founders? (1)
- v. Why is utilitarianism also a “consequentialist” philosophy? How does this allow utilitarians to condemn Hitler? (2)
- vi. Why did Bentham consider utilitarianism an objective ethics? (1)
- vii. Why is utilitarianism not interested in the “moral agent”? (1)
- viii. Utilitarianism is sometimes called a “majoritarian” philosophy. How does that relate to the political principle of democracy? (1)

Criticisms of Utilitarianism

- ix. Why did Nietzsche think JS Mill was a “blockhead”? (1)
- x. How does *time* make the utilitarian calculus almost impossible? (1)
- xi. Why does the defence of probability undermine utilitarianism’s supposed objectivity? (1)
- xii. Why is it a problem to ignore motive? (1)