

Candidate 1 evidence

Advanced Higher

Source 1 – Medical Ethics

12 (a)

Assisted dying refers to the practice where a person receives assistance to end their life with the intention of relieving suffering. It typically involves a terminally ill individual who is experiencing severe pain, physical deterioration, or an incurable condition, and who voluntarily seeks assistance to hasten their death. Assisted dying can take different forms depending on the legal and ethical frameworks of different countries. In some cases, it involves a healthcare professional providing a lethal dose of medication to the person, allowing them to self-administer and control the timing of their death. In other instances, a healthcare professional may directly administer the medication to the person.

12 (b)

'Subliminal Message' - subliminal messages are messages or suggestions that are not consciously perceived but can influence thoughts, emotions, or behaviours. The implication is that the existence of an assisted dying law might indirectly convey the idea that ending one's life is a reasonable choice for terminally ill individuals. The quote suggests that the presence of an assisted dying law could shape societal perceptions and attitudes towards end-of-life decisions. It suggests that the mere existence of such a law might normalise the idea of self-determined death for those facing terminal illness. The quote implies that the introduction of an assisted dying law might prompt individuals with terminal illnesses to contemplate taking their own lives more seriously. It suggests that the availability of legal options for assisted dying might influence the thought process of those who are terminally ill, potentially leading them to see suicide as a more viable course of action.

12 (C)

I agree with parts of this source as it depends on how the assisted dying law is formulated and implemented. If the law explicitly encourages or promotes the idea of taking one's own life as a viable option for the terminally ill, then this makes what she is saying valid and I accept that. If the law is designed to provide compassionate options and safeguards for those who are suffering from incurable diseases and wish to end their lives with medical assistance, without implicitly encouraging suicide, I also agree with what she is saying. However, the validity of the statement also depends on how individuals perceive and interpret the subliminal message conveyed by the law. Some may argue that the existence of an assisted dying law may inadvertently influence terminally ill individuals to consider suicide as a legitimate choice, even if that was not the intention of the legislators. Others may believe that the law's intent is solely to provide compassionate options for those facing unbearable suffering and that the message does not extend beyond that. Therefore, the validity of the quote may vary depending on one's interpretation and beliefs and therefore I do not agree with it due to its ambiguity.