

Candidate 11– Morality, medicine and the human body (Question 19)

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Part b - morality, medicine and the human body.

19. The first moral issue that arises from organ donation is the issue of consent. Currently the UK operate in an opt-in system in which informed consent is required. This can be done by signing the organ donation registry or making your wishes clear to your family. This system highly regards human beings rights to freedom of choice and ensures no one is giving organs against their will. However, in 2016 alone over 500 people in the UK died waiting for an organ. This has urged the UK to ~~re~~consider a method of opt-out in which ~~the~~ organ donation would be presumed of everyone unless the person objected openly. The benefits to this system would be that ~~so~~ many more organs would be donated which could

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	<p>potentially save hundreds of lives. This is because although the majority of the UK agree with organ donation, only a small percentage actually sign the register. This would stop organs going to waste of people who don't get a chance to sign the register or don't make it clear to their families. ^{many} *Religious people would not support an opt-out system and they would be concerned that people would feel pressured into donating organs. Some Christians believe that organ donation should be a voluntary act of kindness and that an opt out system takes away the altruism of the act of organ donation:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the free gift of organ donation "Organ donation after can be meritorious"</p> <p>This quote from the church highlights that organ donation should be voluntary and that informed consent must be given whilst the person is alive. As a result they would not support opt-out.</p>

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	<p>* This moral issue surrounding the opt-out systems is that the government is essentially assuming everyone wants to donate organs. This poses the issue that consent may not actually be given. *</p>
	<p>Another moral issue with organ donation is the issue of beating heart donors. and Beating heart donors are those whose hearts are still beating but they are proven clinically brain dead.</p>
	<p>These patients are & circulatory systems are are artificially kept working. and and these</p>
	<p>are They can donate their heart and kidneys which both deteriorate very quickly without</p>
	<p>oxygen are & supply to the heart. The moral</p>
	<p>issue of beating heart donors is the question of when does life end as although they are</p>
	<p>clinically dead they are not actually dead -</p>
	<p>their heart is still beating. By removing their organs</p>

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	we end their lives. Many religious people would
	argue that if the heart is still beating then a
	person is still alive and so beating heart
	donations would be equal to murder. This
	directly goes against my christian beliefs;
	"thou shalt not kill" and so they would
	not support beating heart donations.