Candidate 2 evidence

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies National 5 Resource Sheet

Candidate Name		cottish Candidate Number	

INTRODUCTION
- Euthanasia : ....
- Morality :....
- Relevant sanctity of life
- Who against/for

1st PARAGRAPH
- Laws around world
- Britain –active illegal-
- Netherlands -legal, children -
- USA (Oregon...) -legal, 6 months, terminal, right mental state-
- Legal/Illegal

2nd PARAGRAPH
- Passive - life-support off -
- Active - drugs kill-
- Voluntary -requested-
- Non-voluntary -coma -
- Involuntary - murder, Hitler-
- Hippocratic oath -do no harm-

3rd PARAGRAPH
- *Muslims
- Suicide wrong, cheating test/life
- "When their time comes they cannot delay it for a single hour nor can they bring it forward by a single hour." (Qur'an16:61)
- "Do not take life, which Allah made sacred other than in the course of justice."(Qur'an 17:33)

4th PARAGRAPH
- Hospice movement
- Care for people, not kill them
- Pallative care good, euthanasia not needed
- Degenerative diseases (MND, Alzheimers) bad quality of life, hospice not right

5th PARAGRAPH
- *Christians
- Help people
- "Love thy neighbour"(Matthew 22:39)
- "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Luke 6:31)
- Bible un-explicit

6th PARAGRAPH
- Dignitas
- Shouldn't suffer
- Have choice/control
- Stops people breaking law
- 300 dying people take their life every year(dignityindying.org.uk)
- 44%of people would break the law and help a loved one die, risking 14 years in prison (||)

CONCLUSION
- Reflect
- Analyse
- I think

Would it be Moral to legalise Euthanasia?

In this essay I am answering the question 'would it be moral to legalise euthanasia?'. Euthanasia is ending someones life to stop suffering, and is most commonly used for terminal patients with few exceptions. Euthanasia is, means 'good death' in greek. This is important to the question as it ponders wether it is moral for euthanasia to be legal. Morality is wether is unmoral (wrong) or moral (right). For example it would be immoral to steal from a charity, but moral to give to charity. Simplified my question is asking wether it is right to make it legal to end someones life, upon their request. In my essay I will be exploring the views of over some Muslims, and the Hospice movement who are against euthanasia and some Christains and Dignitas: dignity in dying who are for euthanasia. This is a relevant issue because of the Sanctity of life. The sanctity of life is the idea that life is sacred and so therefore should be protected – this is not only a religious view –. And depending how your interpret that you may be against – because it is ending someones life – or for it – because it stops someone suffering –. This question is also important and relevant because it on the cutting edge of medicine and many new ideas on it are being displayed all around the world.

These are the laws around the world on euthanasia and are important as they give us an idea on what in general these countries think on the morality of Euthanasia. In the United Kingdom passive euthanasia (turning off life support) is legal however active euthanasia is illegal. In the Netherlands active euthanasia is legal and even

children can be euthanised. I don't believe children should be offered the option of euthanasia, as although they understand the pain they are going through, they may not yet understand the sanctity of their own life. In some American States (such as Oregon and) active euthanasia is legal but they have strict guidelines: the patient must be suffering from a terminal illness, have at most only 6 months to live, and be in the right state of mind. I agree with the USA's strict guidelines however what if a doctor says a patient only has 6 months to live, when in reality they have 2 years. If a doctor miscalculates a patients suspected death (which is an easy mistake to make) that may force a patient to end their life earlier, which could be forcing faster goodbyes with loved ones. Some places around the world where euthanasia is legal are Luxembourg, Belgium and Switzerland (the only country where foreign try. Some examples of countries where active euthanasia is illegal are Saudi Arabia, India, and Australia (except for the state Victoria).

The questions is asking if it moral for euthanasia to be legal, but there is more than one type of euthanasia, so we need to know if all types of euthanasia are less moral. Active euthanasia is when actions are actively taken to end someones life, such as giving them a dosage of drugs that you know will end their life. Passive euthanasia is when actions aren't taken to end someone's life but they are stopped being kept alive, for example turning off life support, withdrawing treatment, water or nutrients. Voluntary euthanasia is when someones wants and asks to be euthanised. Non-voluntary euthanasia is when someone

is euthanesy euthanised but has not requested, but someone has (i.e. family member, loved one) on their behalf because they can't e.g. a baby or coma patient is unable to request euthanasia but someone else (i.e. parents) may consent to their life support being withdrawn. Involuntary euthanasia is when someone doesn't ask to be euthanised, but is anyway, this is widely regaur regau reguarded as murder and a horrific example is when Hitler euthanised disabled babies without their or their parents consent in Nazi Germany. Involuntary euthanasia I believe will always be immoral and should not be legalised. Doctors sign

Some Muslims believe that suicide in all forms is wrong. Muslims see life as a test so to end your life is to cheat that test is wrong. The Qur'an also says that "When their times comes they cannot delay it for a single hour nor can they bring it forward by a single hour." (Qur'an 16:61) The Muslims believe the Qur'an is the word of Allah so follow it very closely, so would believe euthanasia is wrong. Also Some Muslims believe to help in someones euthanasia is wrong. "Do not take life, which Allah made sacred other than in the ceruse of justice." (Qur'an 17:33) So some Muslims would say it would be en However the first quote from the So some muslims would say it would be immoral to legalise euthanasia.

The Hospice movement/care not killing believe euthanasia. is wrong also. The hospice movement believes that we should care for people not kill them. Because palliative (end of life) care is so good, Euthanasia is not necessary. Palliative care is very good and can give a painless end

of life however if you are suffering from a degenerative disease such as (MND or Alzheimers) a hospice may not be the right place for you. You're end of life will be painless, but probably confusing and scary, and you may not wish for your loved ones to see you in that state or may feel like a emotional or financial 'burden' on them. The hospice movement also disagrees with euthanasia as the believe it puts pressure on people to end their lives so they are not a burden. The hospice believe it would be immoral to legalise euthanasia.

Some Christains believe euthanasia is acceptable. Christains are taught to "Love thy neighbour" (Matthew 22:39). This means they should help people and if someone wants to be euthanised, then they should be allowed to be euthanised "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Luke 6:31) that means treating people how they want i.e. if they want to be euthanised allow them to be euthanised. However for Christains (who follow the bible) it is hard to form an opinion on euthanasia as the Bible, unlike the Qur'an is not completely explicit on wether euthanasia or assisted suicide is right or wrong. The bible is also quite contradictory, and forbids killing people/ murder so depending on a christains it so euthanasia could also be interpreted as wrong. Some Christains would believe either it would be moral to legalise euthanasia.

Dignitas: dignity in dying thinks euthanasia is moral. They believe people shouldn't suffer and should be allowed to choose how and when they die. Dignitas,

'Dignitas: dignity in dying' also believe euthanasia should be legal as it would help and stop a lot of people breaking the law. 44% of people would break the law and help a loved one die risking 14 years in prison (dignityindying.org.uk.) If euthanasia was legalised loved ones trying to help patients have control of their death wouldn't go to prison for helping someone. Protecting not only the patient but their loved one. They also believe it would be more supportive for terminal patients if euthanasia was legal. 300 dying people take their own life every year (dignityindying.org.uk). This means if the law was changed many people could end their life in comfort surrounded by friends instead of alone and scared. Therefore they would believe it would be moral to ~~Some muslims believe it would be~~ legalise euthanasia

Some muslims believe it would be immoral to legalise euthanasia because ending your life is cheating the test of life, and even if you are in pain, suffering is part of the test. I don't agree with this view as it doesn't take into consideration people with suicidal thoughts and depression, they are suffering from a mental health issue, of which they have no control over, so if they kill themselves they shouldn't be shunned. The hospice movement don't think euthanasia should be legal because we should care for people not kill them and palliative care is so good euthanasia is not needed. I don't agree with this because if you are suffering from a degenerative disease, palliative care may stop your pain but you won't have a good quality of life. Some christains believe it would be moral to legalise ~~euthanasia~~ euthanasia because we should treat people