

## Candidate 1 evidence

Philosophy National 5 Resource Sheet		
Candidate Name	Scottish Candidate Number	
Q: teenage girl, <del>choice</del> , abortion?		
<b>Utilitarian</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- argues pro-choice (consequences) <del>[scribble]</del></li> <li>- rule utilitarians, give choice to all</li> <li>- some circumstances, deny if greater good for more people.</li> <li>- "end justifies the means"</li> </ul>	
<b>Bentham</b> book Utilitarianism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- hedonic calculus justifications - finance</li> <li>- other's needs</li> <li>- education/work</li> <li>- John Stuart Mill: individual sovereignty</li> <li>- "over himself, over his own body and mind, individual sovereign"</li> </ul>	
<b>KANTIAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- maxims (rules) to be universalised (Utility)</li> <li>- if self-contradictory, or contradiction of will, duty, don't act accordingly.</li> <li>- "you should have an abortion" - self contradiction, would apply to everyone.</li> <li>- "if raped" - no contradiction</li> <li>- if followed, may wish yourself out of existence</li> <li>- fetuses with severe learning difficulties presented imagining maxims as universal laws, wouldn't be contrary to will.</li> </ul>	
Immanuel Kant Metaphysics moral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what purpose/design as humans?</li> <li>- primary: protect/preserve innocent</li> <li>- secondary: do not abort</li> </ul>	
<b>Natural law</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deontological principles - no exceptions</li> <li>- Catholics: secondary precepts take pressure of decisions.</li> <li>- ectopic pregnancy: removing fallopian tube is not wrong.</li> <li>- woman would not die... unable to conceive.</li> <li>- double effect: second effect proportionate to first.</li> </ul>	
precept - <del>[scribble]</del> Aristotle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- categorical imperative: deciding if an act is morally good</li> <li>- everyone should act the same way (universalizable)</li> <li>- if not every woman is allowed to have abortion when pregnant = not moral</li> <li>- all would go extinct</li> </ul>	
three types		

## If a Teenager Falls Pregnant, Should She Have an Abortion?

Abortion is a widely spoken about topic. There are many views about if Abortions should be carried out or not. Religions play a key role in the debate of Abortion. The medical procedure is carried out to terminate a foetus that is up to 28 weeks, or less. Utilitarians, Kantians and followers of Natural Law also have a lot to say about it.

Utilitarians follow a theory called Utilitarianism which was mainly founded by Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill. The theory focuses on consequences of acts. The consequences that can occur can be local or global, short term ~~is~~ or long term. The local effect an abortion could be the impact it would have on the family. It would be difficult to try and decide on a global impact that an abortion would have. A short term consequence could be that you don't have a baby that maybe made the mother sick or ill but a long term effect ~~might~~ might be that the mother will be unable to have any more children. The theory of Utilitarianism also ~~#~~ focuses on two more utilities other than consequences: Hedonism and Equity. Equity means that you treat everyone the same. An example could include that you give the foetus the same chance at life as other babies. Jeremy Bentham talks about hedonism in one of his book when he talks about the "felicific" calculus which is also known as the "hedonic calculus". In this section, he wrote about ~~how~~ how the calculus can help justify actions based on asking different questions. The Hedonic calculus can help to justify finance (how much the



abortion costs), other's needs (the needs and wants of family members, for example) and finally education and work (if it will impact the mother's work or education life). John Stuart Mill talks about something called "individual sovereignty". This is about doing an act based on your mental and physical state. In some circumstances, an abortion may be denied depending on how many people it will ~~impact~~ impact and how much good it will bring them. There are problems with how utilitarians see abortion. If a family wanted ~~the~~ the girl to get an abortion but she didn't, how can you say that the greatest good for the greatest number of people will help the decision be made. In accordance with the Equity Utility, if the fetus had disabilities, they can't always be given the same chance as other babies.

Another response to the abortion question ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> the views of Kantians. Kantian Ethics is an ~~an~~ a priori theory founded by Immanuel Kant. He is the author of many philosophical books, one of which is "Metaphysics of morals". In this book, he talks about maxims which are rules that need to be universalised in order to count as rules. If the maxim is self-contradictory or is a contradiction of the will, it is a person's duty not to act in accordance with that maxim. "If you are pregnant, you should have an abortion, - this maxim is a self-contradiction and would apply to everyone. If followed, a new generation would be extinct. "If you have been raped, you should get an abortion, - this has no contradiction of itself but is a contradiction of the will. As nice as it sounds, ~~if~~ if you will all rape victims to have an abortion, you may be willing yourself



out of existence. If a fetus was to have severe learning difficulties or severe disabilities, they would be unable to imagine maxims as universal and in effect, no law would be contradictory. Kant also wrote about a theory of his ~~is~~ called the "Categorical Imperative." The Categorical Imperative is used to decide if an act is morally good or not. If you were to ask a pregnant woman if all women should ~~have~~ have an abortion, she may either say "yes" or "no." If she answered "yes," a future generation may never happen but if "no" was her answer, it would not be moral because not every woman would be allowed one.

The final response to Abortion being spoken about are the views of people who follow the Natural Law. Followers of this theory ask what our purpose or design is as humans. Aristotle is the main founder of this theory and he wrote about primary and secondary precepts. For abortion, the primary precept could be to protect and preserve the innocent. The secondary precept would follow on and say that if we want to protect and preserve innocent people, we should not abort them. The precept theory is a deontological one which means there are no exceptions. Catholics say that secondary precepts take pressure of making ~~the~~ decisions. In the case of an ectopic pregnancy, primary precepts would say that removing the fallopian tube is not morally wrong however, the mother is highly unlikely to ever conceive again. If the fallopian tube is not removed, both the mother and child die. In this theory, there is a double effect, which means that <sup>the</sup> second precept has

to be proportionate to the first one. The problem with precepts is that some may not agree with the outcome of the secondary precept. However, because it is a deontological theory, the precepts cannot be changed.

Overall, the responses to Abortion are quite different. Utilitarians strongly believe that depending on which consequences you ~~believe~~ agree with that is the choice you make. Kantians believe that if you follow a specific maxim, you must not defy it and make sure no contradiction occurs. Natural Law followers strictly disagree with abortion but are willing to allow ectopic pregnancies to be terminated.