

Candidate 2 evidence

Philosophy National 5 Resource Sheet

Candidate Name

Scottish Candidate Number

My question is 'Is consequentialism more effective than deontology in moral decision making?'
consequentialist theory-Utilitarianism
Deontological theory-Kantian Ethics, strengths and weaknesses

Act and Rule

Greatest happiness-hedonic calculus 7 features

"The said truth is that it is the greatest happiness of the greatest number that is the measure of right and wrong"

JS Mill

Greatest happiness principle-universal laws

Strong and weak

Kant

Deontological-focuses on action

Categorical imperative-universal law act on a principle we would wish everyone else to adopt

The same or similar situation

Maxims-"never use yourself or anyone else as a means to an end but simply as an end in themselves"

Kingdom of ends-law making member of society

Act strengths-hedonic calculus used in all situations,happiness for the majority

Act weaknesses-promoting evil pleasures,consequences are unpredictable

Rule strength-more deontological-more universal standards,unpredictable consequences

Kant strength-duty-morality,

Kant weakness-conflicting duties link to Q

Intro

Within this essay I will investigate which form of philosophy is more effective efficient when making a moral decision.

The consequentialist theory I have chosen is Utilitarianism and the Deontological theory I have studied is Kantian Ethics, by looking at the strengths and weaknesses of these theories I will decide which one is the most effective ~~at~~ when making moral decisions.

Always state why it is more effective.

Is consequentialism more effective than deontology in moral decision making?

Within this essay I will investigate which form of philosophy is more efficient when making a moral decision. The consequentialist theory I have chosen is Utilitarianism and the deontological theory I have studied is Kantian Ethics, by looking at the strengths and weaknesses of these theories I will decide which is most effective when making a moral decision.

The two forms of utilitarianism come from the beliefs of Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill. Act utilitarianism came from the beliefs of Bentham. One feature of Act Utilitarianism is the greatest happiness principle, by using this Bentham aimed to create the greatest amount of happiness for the greatest number of people, using the 7 features of the Hedonic calculus - considering purity, intensity, duration, fecundity, propinquity, extent and certainty.

Bentham would try to calculate what would create the greatest happiness. The said truth is that the greatest happiness of the greatest number is the

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Rule utilitarianism comes from the beliefs of

John Stuart Mill. One feature of Rule Utilitarianism is the greatest happiness principle. by using this Mill aimed to create the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people, using Universal Laws - rules everyone should follow - such as Don't lie, Don't cheat, Don't Steal and Don't kill. Mill aims to create the greatest happiness. Another feature of Rule Utilitarianism is Strong and weak utilitarianism - Strong utilitarianism are those who would never break a universal law no matter the situation whereas weak utilitarianism may break universal laws in extreme situations if doing so created the greatest happiness for the majority of people.

Kantian Ethics comes from the beliefs of Immanuel Kant. One feature of Kantian ethics is that it is deontological and therefore does not consider the consequences of an action but the action itself. Another feature of Kantian ethics is the Categorical Imperative, the categorical imperative has 3 formulations - Universal Law, 'means to ends and Kingdom of ends. The first formulation Universal Law states that we must act on a principle we would wish everyone else to adopt in the same or similar situation. These principles being Maxims for example 'Never break a promise' or 'Always

tell the truth'. The second formulation means 'ends' states "never use yourself or anyone else as a means to an end but simply as an end in themselves", for Kant using someone to benefit is morally wrong. The third formulation states that we should act as law making members of society.

One strength of Act utilitarianism is the hedonic calculus, it is easy to use and can be used in any situation when making a moral decision. However one weakness of Act is that using the Hedonic Calculus takes time which is a problem when one needs to make a decision quickly, therefore making Act less effective at making moral decisions.

Another strength of ~~the~~ Act utilitarianism is that ~~it~~ using the greatest happiness principle, the majority is always pleased, which shows the effectiveness of Act utilitarianism in moral decision making. However, another weakness of ~~the~~ Act utilitarianism is that due to always creating the greatest happiness, the minority are never pleased which shows that consequentialism could be less effective.

One strength of Rule utilitarianism is that it takes a more deontological approach

to moral decisions as it creates more universal standards, therefore making consequentialism less effective.

One strength of Kantian ethics is duty, by doing our 'duty' one cannot act on their beliefs therefore creating a universal standard this makes deontology appear more effective when making a moral decision. However a weakness of Kantian ethics is conflicting duties, in some situations one may have two duties but in order to follow their duty they will break ~~another~~ another duty.

In conclusion, I believe that consequentialism is less effective than deontology in making moral decisions as Kantian ethics provides a more logical and structured way in which we should make decisions.