

## Candidate 8 evidence

3. (a) What is the purpose of the hedonic calculus? 2

The Hedonic calculus is a quasi-Scientific algorithm, consisting of seven different criteria by which competing pleasures are rated & in order to determine which action is the most moral. <sup>Some</sup> ~~the~~ criteria include, extent, purity, fecundity, propinquity, certainty ~~of attainment~~ ... etc...

(b) Explain two problems with using the hedonic calculus. 4

One problem with using the hedonic calculus is that it can be difficult to predict the consequences of an action. This means that it is hard to use the calculus accurately since the criteria may not be rated exactly.

Another problem is that it takes up time to use and some may consider it over-complicated to use daily. Since the calculus is made up of several different dimensions, it takes too much time and effort to complete it accurately on a daily basis. Thus making it unrealistic.

## 3. (continued)

- (e) Read the scenario below and answer the question that follows.

David tells his mum he is going for a run. When he gets back, he tells his mum he ran 5 kilometres. In fact, he was sitting in the park playing games on his phone.

You have studied another moral theory. What would followers of your other moral theory think about David's actions in the above scenario? You must refer to the scenario in your answer.

In your answer you should:

- describe the key features of your other moral theory
- explain why followers of your other moral theory would not approve of David's decision to act in this way.

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Kantian ethics is deontological, meaning that the morality of an action is based on whether the action itself is right or wrong. Kant believed in the Good will, or Duty, which essentially means doing something purely because you know it's the right thing to do. Kant said that the Good will is like "stare through life a jewel". Kantian ethics is also based on the sovereignty of reason, since Kant wanted it to be objective and universal. For Kant to say lying is wrong is the same as saying  $2+2=25$ . This means that it is a moral theory based on A priori and reason.

**3. (e) (continued)**

Kant also believed that we should always act out of our duty, rather than inclination. This is because acting out of inclination means that it was influenced in some way, be for example, out of habit or in order to get an advantage. Whereas acting out of duty is logical and not influenced, you are taking an action purely because it's the right thing to do. To see whether

A follower of Kantian ethics would approve of David's actions you have to create a maxim, and then put it through the categorical imperative, to see what kind of duty you have to follow it. A maxim is a general rule of behavior that can be applied to particular situations and the categorical imperative is a test for the maxim. The maxim for this situation would be "Always lie". The first step is to see if it passes contradiction in the conception, is it logically possible to universalise? In this case, yes it is. The second step is to see if it passes contradiction in the will.

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### ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR ANSWERS

Or in other words, would a rational person want it universalised? In this case, no rational person would want this maxim universalised since they could be lied to all the time. It does not pass contradiction in the will.

After this, you have to find out if it uses people as a means to an end. In this case, yes it does, meaning it fails the End in Itself formulation.

The last step is to see what kind of duty you have to follow it. If it passes everything, then you have a perfect duty to follow the maxim. If it only fails contradiction in the will then you have an imperfect duty. Meaning you only follow it sometimes.

However, with this maxim, "Always lie", you would have a perfect duty NOT to follow it since it fails the End in Itself formulation, it uses people as a means to an end.

This means that a follower of Kantian ethics would not approve of David's actions.