

Philosophy and Ethics 4 – Knowledge Organiser

Key Words			
Abortion	The termination of a pregnancy by removing the foetus.	Idleness	Taking time for leisure or to do nothing
Essence	The defining nature of who we are	Other	The idea that something is outside the mainstream or different to the default
Euthanasia	The act of helping someone who is terminally ill end their life	Pragmatism	The belief that society only gets better if we believe in progress + act to make it better
Existentialism	The belief we have the freedom to define our own essence	Progress	The idea that society keeps moving forward and getting better
Feminism	The belief that women are equal to men	Quality of Life	The measure of how good or easy life is to live
Hospice	A place where people are cared for when they are dying	Sanctity of Life	The belief that human life is special, sacred and given by God

Key Ideas	
Sanctity and Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The idea of sanctity of life says that God created human life and that humans are made in God's image so all human life is special and sacred. - The idea of quality of life is that we can measure the amount of pain or pleasure that someone is in, and how easy it is for them to live their lives and see how good their quality of life is
Abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abortion is the ending of a pregnancy by removing the foetus. It is currently legal in England only if there is a danger to the health or life of the child or mother or if the foetus will be born severely disabled. - It is controversial as some people view the foetus as a human life and abortion as a form of murder whilst others see it as a choice for the woman to make and don't view the foetus as a fully-formed human life. - Traditional Christian ethics suggests that all life is sacred and that abortion is therefore wrong whilst a more Utilitarian view would weigh up the pain involved in an unwanted birth against the pain of a possible abortion.
Euthanasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Euthanasia is the act of helping someone who is terminally ill, to end their own life. It can be voluntary where the patient consents or involuntary where they are unable to consent. It can be active where a drug is administered or passive where treatment is withdrawn. - In the UK currently euthanasia is illegal though pressure groups exist seeking to legalise it. - Utilitarians would argue that euthanasia can be good as it brings suffering to a quick and dignified end, some Christians dislike it as it goes against sanctity of life and might mean elderly people end up feeling like burdens on their families - The Hospice Movement was set up to provide calm and dignified places for people to receive care before they die.
Jean-Paul Sartre Existentialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jean-Paul Sartre was a French 20th century philosopher who put forward the theory of Existentialism. He argued that our existence precedes our essence – in other words we must discover what our purpose is over the course of our life – it is not predetermined. - This, he believed, meant we all have a great deal of freedom to define our own way in life but also a great responsibility to do so in a way which builds a good society. We must exercise responsible freedom.
Simone de Beauvoir Feminism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simone de Beauvoir was another 20th century French philosopher. She believed that society at that point saw the male as default and the female as other arguing that the world was usually seen through male eyes in literature and philosophy. - She applied existentialism to feminism and argued that women should take responsibility to define their own essence and buck society's ideas of what it meant to be a woman. - This was a radical departure from the way in which women were seen in the society of the 1950s.
William Du Bois Pragmatism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - William Du Bois was a 20th century American philosopher who witnessed the injustice and discrimination which black people suffered in America at the time. - He argued that people had to believe that progress to a better life was possible and that hope was needed to keep progress moving forward. - Pragmatism is the belief that it is not just our thoughts and feelings that matter but the practical implications of these thoughts and feelings – we have to look at the real-world impact of how we act - Du Bois inspired Martin Luther King Jr to give his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech which imagined a world in which black children and white children were able to play together.
Bertrand Russell Idleness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bertrand Russell was a 20th century British philosopher who argued that society's relationship with work was broken and absurd. He believed that people worked too hard and for too long and it made them miserable. - He argued that play, idleness and creativity were needed to create a more balanced human existence.

Homework – See your Term 2 Homework Booklet.

Week 2 – 'Sanctity of Life' (page 2).

Week 4 – 'Euthanasia' (page3).

Week 6 – 'Existentialism' (page 3).