

# Ethics A-Z (Philosophy A-Z)

## The Review

### An A-Z of medical philosophy

#### Box 1. Reflective notes

- What are the advantages of a Utilitarian ethic in general practice?
- What are the disadvantages of a Utilitarian ethic in general practice?

#### Bentham, Mill, and Utilitarianism

Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832) was a one man social revolution. He was a lawyer who sought to reform the penal code. He designed the first high surveillance jail. He founded University College London. He drafted the first new South American constitutions for his friend Simon Bolivar. And when he died his will stated that his body should be stuffed and dressed in his clothes so that he could still preside over College Council at UCL (he was minuted as 'present but not voting'). And he completely reinvented morality.

Bentham was an Enlightenment man. Morals must come not from authority or tradition, not from religious commands, but from reason. Bentham thought he had it sorted. He famously stated:

*Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, pain and pleasure. It is for them alone to point out what we ought to do, as well as to determine what we shall do. On the one hand the standard of right and wrong; on the other the chain of causes and effects, are fastened to their throne.*

Bentham's measure of morality therefore is whatever will lead to the greatest happiness of the greatest number – Utilitarianism. To determine what is right we should simply aggregate the total pleasures and subtract the total pains reasonably foreseeable from any course of action. This is of course still the main criterion used in much public policy, including public health. Bentham believed it may be possible to construct a 'felicific calculus' by assigning values to pleasures that measure their intensity, their duration, their certainty, immediacy, tendency to lead to further pleasures, purity (from pain), and the number of people likely to benefit.

Maximising the public good is certainly an important part of public policy but it has two major problems. First, who is to say what is the greatest good? Bentham was never able to provide figures to put into his felicific calculus. Furthermore, to Bentham one pleasure is as good as another – the quantity of pleasure being equal push-pin (a child's game) is as good as poetry. Stuff opera, let's all watch *X-Factor*. Or why

should we not just live on cocaine and care not for the consequences? John Stuart Mill therefore sought to modify Utilitarianism by recognising "higher" pleasures as of greater value than "lower" pleasures. But isn't that just upper class snobbery?

Also Utilitarianism has no time for justice. If the majority can find maximum total pleasure by steamrollering over the interests of a small minority then so be it: according to Utilitarianism it's moral. The trouble is we just know that it's not! So there must be something in us that accepts Utilitarianism only within certain limits, say in the overall allocation of resources, and yet sees that we need to 'correct' Utilitarianism when it is unjust or ignores the rights of minority groups. If you have to 'correct' an equation to get the right answer then perhaps there's something wrong with your theory!

#### CPD further study and reflective notes

The notes in Boxes 1 and 2 will help you to read and reflect further on any of the brief articles in this series. If this learning relates to your professional development then you should put it in your annual PDP and claim self-certified CPD points within the RCGP guidelines set out at <http://bit.ly/UTS23V>.

If your reading and reflection is occasional and opportunistic, claims in this one area should not exceed 10 CPD credits per year. However if you decide to use this material to develop your understanding of medical philosophy and ethics as a significant part of a PDP, say over 2 years, then a larger number of credits can be claimed so long as there is evidence of balance over a 5-year cycle. These credits should demonstrate the impact of your reflection on your practice (for example, by way of case studies or other evidence), and must be validated by your appraiser.

**David Misselbrook**,  
SP, Dean Emeritus of the Royal Society of Medicine,  
Course Director of the Diploma of the Philosophy of  
Medicine of the Society of Apothecaries, and 2689  
Senior Ethics Advisor.

DOI: 10.3399/bjgp13X663172

#### ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

**David Misselbrook**  
Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine,  
Society of Apothecaries, Black Friars Lane, London,  
EC4A 3DF, UK.  
E-mail: [David.Misselbrook@rsm.ac.uk](mailto:David.Misselbrook@rsm.ac.uk)

99 British Journal of General Practice, February 2013

papierschaetze.com: Ethics A-Z (Philosophy A-Z) (): Jonathan Jacobs: Books.Philosophy A-Z. Ethics A-Z. Authors: NA, NA Ethics A-Z is for undergraduate and post-graduate students as well as the general reader. It is a valuable.papierschaetze.com: Ethics A-Z (Philosophy A-Z) () by Jonathan Jacobs and a great selection of similar New, Used and Collectible Books available.Mobin Books Supplies - Offering Ethics A-z (philosophy A-z) Books in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Read about company and get contact details and address.This ebook is a useful advisor to moral concerns and the language, options, and positions valuable to moral theorizing. Entries establish and.The following Philosophy classes are available ONLINE over the Summer. Philosophy Department Social Sciences Bldg Tucson, AZ TEL.For specific course requirements, see the pdf attachment below entitled "Yellow Sheet". Or visit the most recent General Catalog. Why is the study of ethics.An undergraduate major in philosophy prepares students for careers in law, government, and commerce. Major Details; Four-Year Plan; AZ Transfer Pathways.Kendrick Prof of Philosophy (SBS), Eller Chair of Service-Dominant Logic Upper Level: Environmental Ethics, Phil of Law, Metaethics, Decision Theory, Phil of Freedom Philosophy Department Social Sciences Bldg Tucson, AZ.'The Philosophy AZ series from Edinburgh University Press add up to an impressive addition to reference sources in their field. Philosophy A-Z Ethics AZ.Ethics A-Z by Jonathan Jacobs, , available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide. Christian Philosophy A-Z Randal Rauser.Forthcoming Volumes in the Philosophy A-Z Series Chinese Philosophy A-Z, Bo Mou Christian Philosophy A-Z, Daniel Hill Epistemology A-Z, Martijn Blaauw.Listen A-Z Pa svenska. Go to: Centres Shortcuts. List of recent publications Stockholm Philosophy Colloquium Stockholm Centre for Health Care Ethics.The Tenth Annual Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics (WiNE) will be held at the Westward Look Resort in Tucson, AZ, Jan , David Copp, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Davis.Click and Collect from Ethics A-Z - Philosophy A-Z (Paperback). Added to basket. Thorough and upto-date, it is a uniquely concise philosophical reference work.Islamic Philosophy a-Z. About us of Islamic Political paperschaetze.commane Bachir Diagne - - Ethics (3) A Critique of Causality in Islamic.Aristotle's ethics are based on a very simple notion. However if you decide to use this material to develop your understanding of medical philosophy and ethics as a significant part of a PDP, say over 2 years, An A-Z of medical philosophy.Daniel Hill and Randal Rauser. Paperback 21 July Philosophy A-Z Cover for Christian Philosophy A-Z. \$Philosophy courses teach students to think critically, observe keenly and Study religions, traditions and philosophy at GCC PHI , Introduction to Ethics West Happy Valley Road Phoenix Arizona () The Centre for Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy (CESPF) co-ordinates all research at the Institute of Philosophy concerning ethics, applied ethics, social & political philosophy, and philosophy of law. A-Z keyboard\_arrow\_down.Buy Ethics A-Z (Philosophy A-Z) by Jonathan Jacobs (ISBN: ) from Amazon's Book Store. Everyday low prices and free delivery on

eligible. The Routledge companion to ethics by John Skorupski (Ed.) . Feminist philosophies A-Z () Philosophy of language A-Z (). For general philosophical treatises and introductions to philosophy see Cf. BJ66 Ethics. General works. A-Z. By region or country, A-Z. Problems. AHS developed an Ethical No-Kill Philosophy, meaning we never euthanize a pet for space or length of time. Because we care for the most vulnerable animals . Green Ethics and Philosophy: An A-to-Z Guide Subject: Environmental Ethics Reader's Guide; Entries A-Z; Subject Index; Front Matter; Back Matter.

[\[PDF\] Great Car Rally \(Picture Puzzles\)](#)

[\[PDF\] Business Communications: Principles and Methods \(Wadsworth Series in Business Education\)](#)

[\[PDF\] Guidelines for Safe Process Operations and Maintenance](#)

[\[PDF\] When Kings Pray And Fast](#)

[\[PDF\] Map-Rick Steves Planning Germa \(Rick Steves Planning Map\)](#)

[\[PDF\] Alchemy of the Extraordinary: A Journey into the Heart of the Meridian Matrix](#)

[\[PDF\] Os Segredos das Gueixas: O Livro de Cabeceira Para o Amor \(Portuguese Edition\)](#)