

Knowledge Organiser: Ethical Issues

Key Words

Intention: The aim or plan behind a decision.

Outcome: The consequence of a decision. The way things turn out.

Absolute morality: Something can be right or wrong independent of the situation.

Relative morality: Rights and wrong depends on the situation.

Sanctity of Life: Human life is sacred, unique and important to God so should be preserved.

Euthanasia: Refers to giving someone a 'good death' when they are suffering from a terminal illness.

Passive euthanasia: Involves removing life saving treatment (allowing death to happen).

Active euthanasia: Involves a deliberate action to end the person's life.

Assisted suicide: Giving the person the means of taking their own life.

Torture: any act by which severe pain and suffering is intentionally inflicted on a person by a public official.

Migrant – someone who leaves their country to live in another country.

Immigrant – what you are called when you arrive in that new country.

Refugee – someone who leaves their country because they are being persecuted or due to war.

Asylum Seeker – this is what a refugee is called when they arrive in a country and await a Government decision to give them refugee status.

Nuclear weapons: a bomb or missile that uses nuclear energy to cause an explosion.

Trident: the name of Britain's nuclear weapons.

Poverty (absolute): complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs such as food, clothing and shelter.



Case Study on Torture

John Kiriakou, a retired CIA agent, spoke about waterboarding being used by his team while they were interrogating Abu Zubaydah, a detainee who was suspected of being a key Al-Qaida terrorist.

He said that while waterboarding might technically be torture, it had broken their detainee in seconds. The day after the waterboarding was used, the detainee told his interrogator that Allah had visited him in his cell during the night and told him to cooperate with the CIA. 'From that day on, he answered every question... The threat information that he provided disrupted a number of attacks, maybe dozens of attacks,' said Kiriakou.

He feels that the use of waterboarding may have '**compromised our principles at least in the short term**' but felt at the time that it was 'something we needed to do'.



Arguments For & Against Animal Testing: Organise and Learn

As the dominant race, humans have the right to treat animals as they need or wish to.	You can't base equality on a level of intelligence - that is immoral. Everyone/thing should have the same right to avoid suffering.
Humans have the responsibility to protect animals in the same way we do vulnerable human beings.	There is no real alternative to animal testing.
Babies, dementia patients and physically disabled people can't express reason, or individual thought - but they still have rights.	It is natural for humans to hunt and eat animals (we have done it all throughout life).
As humans we have a moral obligation to look after animals.	Animals can't reason or think for themselves therefore they don't have any rights.
Just because animals can't speak does not mean we can treat them how we want.	Animals feel pain in the same way humans do, therefore it is immoral to treat them in this way.