S4 Ethics and Religious Studies Practice Paper 1 | Utilitarian calculus, Kantian ethics, virtue ethics

Senior Secondary Ethics and Religious Studies

S4 Ethics and Religious Studies practice paper with answers: utilitarian calculus, Kantian ethics, virtue ethics, QALY allocation and carbon footprint.

1. Consequentialism and utilitarian calculus (16 marks)

Use happiness units and show the working.

#	Question
1	(a) Plan A raises 200 people by 3 happiness units each and lowers 50 people by 2 units each. Find the net happiness units of Plan A.
2	(b) Plan B raises 120 people by 5 units each and lowers 20 people by 4 units each. Find the net happiness units of Plan B and state, on utilitarian grounds, which plan should be chosen.
3	(c) Explain the difference between act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism, giving one example of each.
4	(d) State two major criticisms of using the total sum of happiness as the only moral standard.

2. Kantian deontology and the universalisation test (18 marks)

Write out the test steps and the conclusion.

#	Question
5	(a) Explain the universalisation test of the categorical imperative and state how it differs from a hypothetical imperative.
6	(b) Apply the universalisation test step by step to the maxim of making a promise with no intention of keeping it in order to borrow money.
7	(c) An act gives 3 people 10 happiness units each while costing 1 person 40 units. Find the net benefit and explain why utilitarianism and deontology would judge the act on different grounds.
8	(d) Identify the difficulty deontology faces in a moral conflict such as lying to save a life.

3. Virtue ethics and character judgement (16 marks)

Illustrate with specific virtues and their extremes.

#	Question
9	(a) Using courage as an example, explain Aristotle’s doctrine of the mean.
10	(b) Compare virtue ethics with consequentialism and deontology in terms of what each judges.
11	(c) Explain the role of practical wisdom and role models in virtue ethics.
12	(d) State two weaknesses commonly raised against virtue ethics.

4. Medical ethics and resource allocation (18 marks)

Give QALYs to 1 decimal place and show the calculation.

#	Question
13	(a) List the four elements of informed consent.
14	(b) Three patients compete for one ventilator. Patient A expects 20 more years at a quality of life of 0.8; B expects 5 years at 0.9; C expects 10 years at 0.5. Find each QALY and rank them by the QALY criterion.
15	(c) Distinguish voluntary euthanasia from non-voluntary passive euthanasia and state the slippery-slope objection.
16	(d) A patient refuses to let the family know his diagnosis although they live with him and provide care. Explain how the duty of confidentiality is weighed against risk to third parties.

5. Environmental ethics and intergenerational justice (16 marks)

Give emissions in kg and tonnes.

#	Question
17	(a) Distinguish anthropocentrism, biocentrism and ecocentrism.
18	(b) A household of four uses 5,000 kWh a year and each kWh emits 0.7 kg of carbon dioxide. Find the annual emissions in tonnes and the emissions per person in kg.
19	(c) State the definition of sustainable development and explain its link with intergenerational justice.
20	(d) The household switches its lighting to LEDs and cuts electricity use by 20%. Find the annual saving in kWh and the emission reduction in kg.

6. Religion and life: suffering and the ground of morality (16 marks)

Answer with the core concepts of each tradition.

#	Question
21	(a) Outline the Christian understanding of creation, original sin and salvation.
22	(b) Outline the Four Noble Truths and dependent origination in Buddhism.
23	(c) Compare the Christian and Buddhist explanations of the origin of suffering.
24	(d) Explain how divine command theory and the Euthyphro problem affect the claim that religion grounds morality.