

DSC 152 PHILOSOPHY UNIT 2

DSC-152 PHILOSOPHY

UNIT : 2

(TELEOLOGICAL ETHICS)

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1. What is Teleological Ethics?

- Teleological ethics is an ethical theory that emphasizes the outcomes or goals of actions. The rightness of an action is determined by its ability to achieve good consequences.

2. What is Hedonism?

- Hedonism is an ethical theory that defines pleasure as the highest good and ultimate goal of human life.

3. What are the two types of Hedonism?

- Psychological Hedonism: The theory that humans are naturally motivated by the pursuit of pleasure.

- Ethical Hedonism: The view that humans should seek pleasure and avoid pain as the ultimate ethical goal.

4. What is Ethical Hedonism?

- Ethical Hedonism is the belief that individuals ought to pursue pleasure and minimize pain in their actions.

5. What is the difference between Psychological and Ethical Hedonism?

- Psychological Hedonism describes human nature, while Ethical Hedonism prescribes how humans ought to act.

6. What is Egoistic Hedonism?

- Egoistic Hedonism holds that individuals should act in ways that maximize their own pleasure.

7. What is Altruistic Hedonism?

- Altruistic Hedonism suggests that individuals should act in ways that maximize pleasure for the greatest number of people.

8. What is the principle of utility in Hedonism?

- The principle of utility suggests that actions are right if they promote the greatest amount of pleasure or happiness.

9. How does Hedonism view moral actions?

- Hedonism views actions as moral if they contribute to personal or collective happiness and pleasure.

10. Is Hedonism a consequentialist theory?

- Yes, Hedonism is a consequentialist theory because it judges actions based on their outcomes (pleasure).

11. What is Utilitarianism?

- Utilitarianism is a form of teleological ethics that advocates for actions that maximize overall happiness or pleasure.

12. Who is the founder of Utilitarianism?

- Jeremy Bentham is generally regarded as the founder of modern utilitarianism.

13. What is Bentham's "Principle of Utility"?

- Bentham's Principle of Utility asserts that the best action is the one that maximizes pleasure and minimizes pain for the greatest number of people.

14. What is the "Hedonic Calculus" proposed by Bentham?

- The Hedonic Calculus is a method for measuring the pleasure and pain produced by an action, using factors like intensity, duration, certainty, and proximity.

15. What is Mill's view of Utilitarianism?

- John Stuart Mill refined Bentham's utilitarianism by emphasizing qualitative differences in pleasures, asserting that intellectual and moral pleasures are superior to physical pleasures.

16. What are "higher" and "lower" pleasures in Mill's utilitarianism?

- Higher pleasures are those related to intellectual and moral activities, while lower pleasures involve physical sensations.

17. How does Mill's "rule utilitarianism" differ from Bentham's "act utilitarianism"?

- Mill's rule utilitarianism focuses on general rules that promote happiness, while Bentham's act utilitarianism judges each individual action based on its consequences.

18. What is the "greatest happiness principle"?

- The greatest happiness principle is the utilitarian idea that the right action is the one that produces the greatest happiness for the greatest number.

19. How does Utilitarianism address individual rights?

- Bentham's utilitarianism often overlooks individual rights in favor of maximizing collective happiness, while Mill's version gives more importance to individual liberty.

20. What is the criticism of Utilitarianism regarding justice?

- Utilitarianism can justify unjust actions if they maximize overall happiness, leading to concerns about fairness and justice.

21. What is Virtue Ethics?

- Virtue ethics is an ethical theory that focuses on the character and virtues of a person rather than the consequences of their actions.

22. Who is the central figure in Virtue Ethics?

- Aristotle is the central figure in Virtue Ethics, with his work **Nicomachean Ethics** forming the foundation.

23. What does Aristotle mean by "Eudaimonia"?

- Eudaimonia, often translated as "flourishing" or "happiness," refers to living a fulfilling life in accordance with virtue.

24. What is the difference between intellectual and moral virtues in Aristotle's theory?

- Intellectual virtues relate to reasoning and wisdom, while moral virtues involve character traits like courage, temperance, and generosity.

25. What is the "Golden Mean" in Aristotle's ethics?

- The Golden Mean is the ideal balance between extremes, where virtue lies between deficiency and excess (e.g., courage lies between recklessness and cowardice).

26. What are some examples of moral virtues according to Aristotle?

- Examples of moral virtues include courage, temperance, generosity, and honesty.

27. How does Aristotle define moral virtue?

- Moral virtue is a habitual disposition to act in a way that strikes a balance between extremes, promoting human flourishing.

28. Why is the "Golden Mean" important in Virtue Ethics?

- The Golden Mean helps individuals navigate the complexities of life by choosing the moderate path, avoiding the extremes of excess or deficiency.

29. How does Aristotle's Virtue Ethics differ from Consequentialism?

- Virtue Ethics focuses on the character of the agent and their development of virtuous traits, while consequentialism focuses on the outcomes of actions.

30. What role do emotions play in Aristotle's Virtue Ethics?

- Emotions are integral to Aristotle's virtue ethics; they must be regulated by reason to cultivate virtuous behavior and contribute to human flourishing.

1. What is Teleological Ethics, and how does it define morality based on outcomes?

- Answer: Teleological ethics, also known as consequentialism, is a moral theory that holds that the morality of an action is determined by its outcomes or consequences. The primary goal is to achieve a specific end or purpose, such as maximizing well-being, happiness, or pleasure. This theory is contrasted with deontological ethics, which emphasizes duties and rules rather than outcomes. In teleological ethics, an action is morally right if it leads to good consequences or promotes a desirable end state.

2. What is Hedonism, and how does it relate to Teleological Ethics?

- Answer: Hedonism is a subset of teleological ethics that focuses on the pursuit of pleasure and the avoidance of pain as the highest good. According to hedonistic ethics, the morally right action is the one that maximizes pleasure and minimizes suffering. Hedonism defines pleasure as the ultimate end or goal of human life, suggesting that happiness or enjoyment is the most important value in determining the rightness of actions.

3. What are the different types of Hedonism, and how do they differ from each other?

- Answer:

- Psychological Hedonism: This theory suggests that humans are naturally motivated by the desire for pleasure and the avoidance of pain. It posits that every human action is driven by a pursuit of personal happiness, whether consciously or unconsciously.

- Ethical Hedonism: Unlike psychological hedonism, which describes how humans act, ethical hedonism prescribes that humans ought to act in ways that maximize pleasure and minimize pain. It is a normative theory about how people should behave.

- Egoistic Hedonism: This form of hedonism holds that individuals should seek their own pleasure and happiness above all else. It prioritizes self-interest and personal well-being.

- Altruistic Hedonism: Altruistic hedonism suggests that individuals should act in ways that maximize pleasure for others, not just themselves. It is focused on the collective well-being and happiness of others.

4. How does Hedonism justify actions that seem morally questionable?

- Answer: Hedonism justifies actions based on the amount of pleasure or happiness they produce. For instance, if an action leads to a large amount of pleasure for the majority, it is considered morally right, even if it involves actions that might seem questionable from other ethical perspectives. However, ethical critiques often arise, questioning whether pleasure alone is a sufficient criterion for determining the morality of actions, especially in cases where pleasure might conflict with justice or rights.

5. What criticisms are commonly raised against Hedonism, and how can they be addressed?

- Answer: Common criticisms of hedonism include:

- Quality vs. Quantity of Pleasure: Critics argue that hedonism focuses too much on the quantity of pleasure and ignores the quality of experiences. Not all pleasures are equally valuable.

- Selfishness: Egoistic hedonism, in particular, is criticized for promoting selfishness, as it prioritizes individual pleasure over the welfare of others.

- Short-term vs. Long-term Pleasures: Critics argue that hedonism often promotes short-term pleasures at the expense of long-term well-being and happiness.

- Addressing the Criticism: Philosophers like John Stuart Mill have responded to these critiques by differentiating between higher and lower pleasures, emphasizing that intellectual and moral pleasures are more valuable than physical pleasures.

6. What is Utilitarianism, and how does it differ from other ethical theories like deontology?

- Answer: Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialism that posits that the rightness or wrongness of actions is determined by their ability to produce the greatest amount of happiness or pleasure for the greatest number of people. Unlike deontological theories, which focus on duties and rules (e.g., Kant's categorical imperative), utilitarianism emphasizes outcomes and practical consequences in moral decision-making. The goal is to maximize overall well-being and minimize suffering.

7. What is Jeremy Bentham's version of Utilitarianism, and how does it approach moral decision-making?

- Answer: Jeremy Bentham is considered the founder of modern utilitarianism. His version, known as "act utilitarianism," states that the right action in any given situation is the one that maximizes pleasure and minimizes pain for everyone involved. Bentham introduced the Hedonic Calculus, a method to measure and compare the pleasure and pain produced by different actions based on factors such as intensity, duration, certainty, and proximity. His focus is on individual actions and their immediate consequences.

8. What is the Hedonic Calculus, and how is it used in Bentham's Utilitarianism?

- Answer: The Hedonic Calculus is a method created by Bentham to calculate the pleasure and pain generated by an action. It involves measuring various aspects of the experience, including:

- Intensity: How strong is the pleasure or pain?
- Duration: How long does the pleasure or pain last?
- Certainty: How likely is the pleasure or pain to occur?
- Proximity: How near or distant is the pleasure or pain?
- Fecundity: The likelihood that the pleasure will lead to more pleasure.
- Purity: The likelihood that the pleasure will not be followed by pain.

The calculation helps determine which action will bring about the greatest net pleasure.

9. How did John Stuart Mill improve upon Bentham's version of Utilitarianism?

- Answer: John Stuart Mill refined Bentham's utilitarianism by introducing the distinction between higher and lower pleasures. While Bentham treated all pleasures as equal in value, Mill argued that intellectual and moral pleasures (e.g., reading a book, pursuing knowledge) are more valuable than physical pleasures (e.g., eating, drinking). Mill also developed the concept of "rule utilitarianism", which focuses on following general rules that tend to produce the greatest happiness over time, rather than evaluating each individual action based on its immediate consequences.

10. What is the difference between Bentham's Act Utilitarianism and Mill's Rule Utilitarianism?

- Answer: Bentham's act utilitarianism evaluates the morality of each individual action based on whether it maximizes happiness or minimizes pain. Mill's rule utilitarianism, on the other hand, argues that we should follow rules that, in general, lead to the greatest happiness. While act utilitarianism evaluates each action in isolation, rule utilitarianism focuses on the long-term effects of adhering to general rules or principles that promote overall well-being.

11. What are the criticisms of Utilitarianism, and how do Bentham and Mill respond to them?

- Answer: Criticisms of utilitarianism include:

- Impartiality and fairness: Utilitarianism can justify actions that seem unfair or unjust if they result in greater overall happiness.

- Injustice: Utilitarianism might condone sacrificing individual rights for the greater good.

- Practicality: The Hedonic Calculus can be difficult to apply in real-life decision-making.

- Response: Bentham and Mill respond by emphasizing the importance of maximizing overall happiness and minimizing suffering, and Mill addresses concerns about justice by prioritizing higher pleasures and individual rights.

12. What is Virtue Ethics, and how does it differ from other ethical theories like Utilitarianism and Deontology?

- Answer: Virtue ethics is an ethical theory that focuses on the character and moral virtues of the individual rather than on the consequences of their actions (utilitarianism) or the adherence to moral rules (deontology). According to virtue ethics, the right action is the one that a virtuous person would perform. Virtue ethics emphasizes the development of good character traits, such as courage, honesty, and wisdom, which allow individuals to live flourishing and meaningful lives.

13. What are the main virtues according to Aristotle, and how are they categorized?

- Answer: According to Aristotle, virtues are traits of character that enable a person to live a flourishing life. Aristotle divides virtues into two categories:

- **Moral Virtues:** These include traits like courage, temperance, generosity, and honesty, which govern our emotions and actions. Moral virtues are cultivated through habit and practice.

- **Intellectual Virtues:** These include wisdom, understanding, and prudence, which govern our reasoning and decision-making. Intellectual virtues are developed through teaching and learning.

14. What is the "Golden Mean" in Aristotle's ethics, and how does it guide moral behavior?

- Answer: The Golden Mean is Aristotle's concept of virtue as a balance between two extremes: deficiency and excess. For example, courage lies between cowardice (deficiency) and recklessness (excess). The Golden Mean teaches that virtue is not about avoiding extremes entirely but about finding a moderate and balanced approach to behavior. Aristotle argues that acting in accordance with the Golden Mean leads to flourishing, as it promotes the development of a virtuous and harmonious character.

15. How does Aristotle's Virtue Ethics contribute to human flourishing (Eudaimonia), and what role does rationality play in this?

- Answer: Aristotle's concept of *Eudaimonia (flourishing or happiness) is central to his virtue ethics. According to Aristotle, living a life of virtue leads to eudaimonia, the highest good for humans. Virtue involves acting in accordance with reason, and rationality plays a key role in guiding individuals to make the right choices that lead to moral and intellectual development. By cultivating virtues, a person becomes more capable of making rational decisions that contribute to their flourishing, ultimately achieving a well-rounded, meaningful life.

