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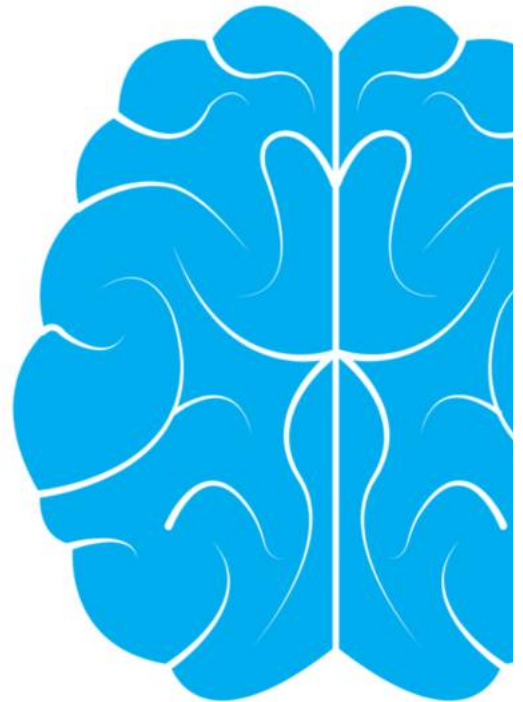
## Ethics Notes

Post 11/17

# TOK NOTES

WOKs: Language, Sense Perception, Emotion,  
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## Ethics Quotes

- "Everything has been figured out, except how to live." (Jean-Paul Sartre)
- "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so" (Shakespeare: Hamlet: Act 2, Scene 2).
- "Happiness is good health and a bad memory." (Ingrid Bergman)
- "The foundation of morality is to have done, once and for all, with lying." (Thomas Henry Huxley)
- "A moral being is one who is capable of comparing his past and future actions or motives, and of approving or disapproving them." (Charles Darwin)
- "Every man, in his own opinion, forms an exception to the ordinary rules of morality." (William Hazlitt)
- "Morality is not the doctrine of how we may make ourselves happy, but how we may make ourselves worthy of happiness." (Immanuel Kant)
- "A man without ethics is a wild beast loosed upon the world." (Manley Hall)
- "The first step in the evolution of ethics is asense of solidarity with other human beings." (Albert Schweitzer)

# Definitions of Ethics



- "Ethics is a code of values which guide our choices and actions and determine the purpose and course of our lives." (Ayn Rand)

## Ethical Questions

- [Here](#) is a great set of ethical questions students can work through on their own. Or it can serve as a handy list of ethical challenges to discuss in class conversations, essays or presentations.

## Deontology, Consequentialism and Virtue

There are many ways to approach ethics, but 3 very common theories tend to come up.

1. "Deontology. (The Deontological approach). This is an approach to ethics in which morality is determined by one's adherence to duty or laws. Kantian ethics is a deontological approach. In Kantian ethics the only actions that are moral are those performed out of one's duty to follow the moral law (Nakazawa).
2. Consequentialism Here the focus is not on rules, but rather on the consequences. In short, the ends can justify the means. Utilitarianism is a consequentialist approach; here what is ethical is what brings the greatest happiness to the greatest number of people.
3. Virtue Ethics. Here the focus is on showing virtue, or character rather than on specific ethical acts. Ethical actions are performed by ethical, virtuous, moral people, so the focus is on being a good person. Aristotelian ethics uses virtue ethics; here the highest moral good is to possess certain character traits (Nakazawa).

## A Case Study from Human Science

In 1963 Stanley Milgram conducted a study into obedience to authority. Milgram was interested in what people would do, how far they would go, if they were told to by an authority figure. It's easy to find videos explaining the experiment, so I won't fully explain it here.

Assuming now that you are aware of this experiment, here are some ethical questions raised by this study (Saul McLeod):

- **Deception.** The participants were misled about what they were doing. Perhaps this is not ethical.
- **Protection of participants.** Participants in the study could have experienced psychological harm, related to the stress of the situation.
- **Right to Withdrawal.** Did the participants feel they were able to end the experiment? If not, perhaps this was not an ethical study.

Human sciences experiments today, at major colleges, use ethics panels to ask questions such as those above, before approving experiments like this.

## Sources

- Christian Nakazawa. What are the differences between consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics? Quora. <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-differences-between-consequentialism-deontology-and-virtue-ethics>
- Libguides. ToK: Ethics. <http://libguides.tts.edu.sg/TOK/ethics>
- Saul McLeod. The Milgram Experiment published 2007 <http://www.simplypsychology.org/milgram.html#ethical> Published 2007.

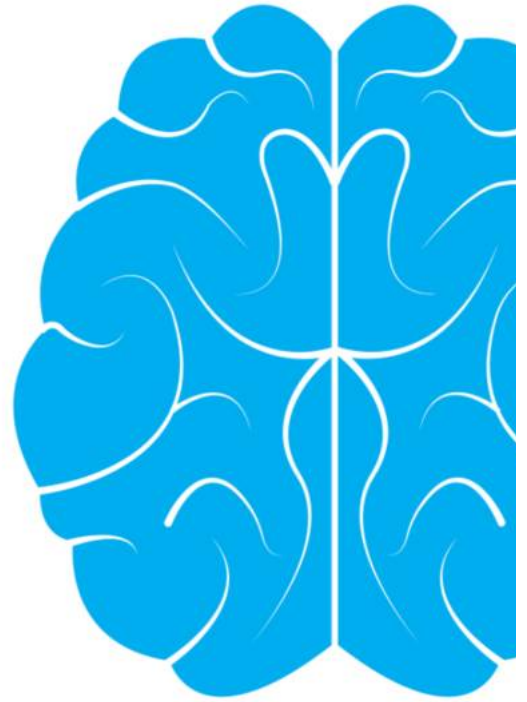
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