**Lesson 2 – Religion and Ethics**

**Tutorial exercises**

1. Activities in pairs
   1. State any one moral judgment.
   2. What is the reason for this moral judgment? You need to state the moral rule or principle that justifies it.
   3. What is the reason for this moral rule or principle? You need to state a higher-order moral principle that justifies it.
   4. Can you justify this higher-order moral principle?
2. Explain briefly Divine Command Theory.

Moral obligations are derived from moral principles, which are ultimately determined by or grounded on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Explain briefly Natural Law Theory.

Moral obligations are derived from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. As a rational being, we can know and practise natural laws. Both natural laws and humans’ rational nature are given by God.

1. Answer on behalf of Divine Command Theory this objection:

How can a person determine his/her own destiny, if what is right and what is wrong is ultimately dependent on God’s will?

I.e. how can Divine Command Theory account for moral autonomy of a person? An autonomous person should have: self-awareness, self-determination, self-understanding, self-rule, and self-control. In particular, s/he is able to make reasonable and authentic decisions on the basis of his/her real intention, feeling, interests, adequate knowledge, thinking, and under the condition of having no internal and external coercion.

1. Answer on behalf of Divine Command Theory this query:

If God’s will does not depend on any objective moral principle, is God’s will arbitrary?

Your answer:

* If God’s command depends on a further objective moral principle or standard, then a similar question of justification will apply to that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* God’s command is \_self-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is the final source of moral norms. We need to stop there.
* God’s will need not be at odds with humans’­­­ ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, moral intuitions, sentiments, conscience and so on.