

Exercise 1 – Theories of ethics

Five common theories of ethics are explained briefly below.

1. Match the label with the correct explanation.
2. Think about the theory and search for some details in a quick internet search and then write down some of the common strengths and weaknesses of the theory.

Utilitarianism Conventional morality Egoism Duty ethics Virtue ethics

Judging actions on the basis of their effect on the individual performing the action –

Advantages and disadvantages
.....

Morality based on the conventions of society –

Advantages and disadvantages
.....

Doing one’s moral duty, things that can be applied universally without having a negative effect on society (Some actions are always right or wrong – deontological) -

Advantages and disadvantages
.....

Judging actions based on their ability to produce the greatest benefit for the greatest number of people -

Advantages and disadvantages
.....

Acting in accordance with basic human virtues (e.g. wisdom, justice, temperance, prudence) –

Advantages and disadvantages
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