



SC0072960

GCSE and GCE Examining Bodies

For office use

- Use black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required in the spaces above.
- Use both sides of the paper.
- Write the question number in the left-hand margin.
- Rule a line across the page after each answer.
- Do all your rough work in this answer book and cross it through without making it illegible. Do not tear out any part of this book. All work must be handed in.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer in the order attempted in the left-hand column of the boxes opposite.
- Check that you have written the information required on each additional sheet used and have attached each sheet to this book.

Write here how many supplementary sheets you have used (if any)

Examiner

(57)

ME

(58)

Question number

3.	<p>The claim that people are free to make moral decisions is a debate that is still being discussed today. Although there are no definite answers to whether we as humans are morally free, there are different standpoints a number of different views on the topic, including that of hard determinism, libertarianism and compatibilism.</p> <p>Hard determinism is the view that all of our</p>

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actions are the result of prior causes and so free will is impossible. This idea leads to no one being blamed or praised for their actions as although it was them who performed ^{the action} ~~them~~, there was some prior cause forcing you to do it. ~~This is presented~~ Although this seems a convincing argument, it places a very negative view on the world ^{and human nature} as hard determinism is suggesting that we have no control over ~~the~~ ^{our} actions and so we cannot be blamed for even the most calmly and prepared murders, for example.

Clarence Darrow, a defence lawyer defended two young men who were in court for murdering someone. Darrow argued that ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~two~~ two men's actions were a result of their upbringing and so cannot be blamed for their actions. ~~The~~ Darrow was successful in changing the punishment from the death penalty to life imprisonment. He said, "Punishment is not permissible unless you had ~~the choice to choose~~ free will to choose another path." Libertarians would disagree with Darrow and say that although we do not make ourselves, we do make our actions. Clarence Darrow basis his whole argument on nurture ~~where~~ but forgets the idea of nature and so believes that we are not free to make moral decisions because of our environment and the way we have been brought up.

John B Watson studies the environment in relation to our actions. He believes that because the world is determined, our actions are the result of prior causes which ~~are predicted~~ or can be

predicted, and controlled by the environment. He believes that by changing the environment, ~~we are able to change our behaviour~~ our behaviour changes with it. This idea of 'Behaviourism' was influenced by ~~Pavlov's~~ Ivan Pavlov who did experiments on dogs to condition them to salivate when they heard the sound of a bell.

Although the environment may play a large part ^{controlling} in our moral behaviour, the environment ~~is~~ surely cannot account for our moral decisions, ~~as we~~

John Locke, a philosopher used an example of a man in a locked room. ~~The~~ On awakening, the man decides to stay in his bed and not to leave the room, unaware that he in fact cannot leave the room because the door is locked. The man thinks he has made a free decision but he hasn't ~~as~~ he had no choice but to stay in the room. Locke, along with John Harsanyi believes that there are always both internal or external forces acting upon us making us think we are free when we are not. Therefore, although people think we are free to make moral decisions, we are not.

An opposing view to hard determinism is libertarianism which suggests that determinism is false, and we have free will.

This argument is one accepted by a lot of people because we like to think as we are rational people that we have the free will to make moral decisions. ~~to~~ But how do we know we are free? Just because we like the idea of ~~us~~ us being free does not make us free agents.

Peter van Inwagen says that determinism is like a road with only one way to reach the destination. Libertarianism on the other hand implies that there are many branches you can take and many different destinations you can go to.

A ~~criticism~~^{strength} to this is that if all of our actions and moral decisions are free, we have the potential to be praised or blamed for our actions, which hard determinists rejected.

~~A middle way~~ A third view that must be presented is that of compatibilism which states that our actions are determined, but we have free will. A criticism to this approach is that how can we know which of our actions are determined or free due to the complex nature of the human anatomy?

David Hume says that compatibilism is a "reconciling project" and claims, "our actions are determined and we have free will". Hume believes that we are free unless we are physically constrained. He also says that freedom is about choosing what to do. Hume fails to ~~ackno~~ acknowledge that maybe it is not only the power to choose what to do, but the power to choose what we want to do. For example someone may want a cigarette but doesn't want to want a cigarette. Hume says this person is free to have one but one might argue ~~as~~ and say that addicts leave you unfree.

Compatibilism claims that we are free to

make moral decisions ~~at~~ although our actions are determined.

~~A~~ The idea of predestination is important whilst discussing whether we are free agents to make moral decisions. The idea of predestination was formulated by John Calvin and Augustine of Hippo. Calvin said that we are not free to make moral decisions because God has chosen who will be saved and who will be damned. Calvin calls these people either the elect or the reprobate. This idea of predestination goes against the idea of God being all loving who would want to save everyone. Also, it could be said that surely God ~~was~~ gave us free will because ~~he~~ wanted us as humans to either completely reject or accept him and so allowing us the choice.

The three stances, hard determinism, libertarianism and compatibilism are three opposing views that need to be considered. Although hard determinism seems ~~seem~~ believable, what about the idea of quantum physics which is spontaneous and free. This could be applied to human behaviour today. Compatibilism is the middle-way, trying to please everyone but it could be said that it ends up pleasing noone as it makes no logical sense. Therefore the only logical view that can be taken is the Libertarian view because it does not rely on a God and takes moral responsibility very seriously. Therefore people are free to make moral decisions.

4.

Homosexuality is opposed by many people and yet accepted by many. There is no answer to whether it itself is ~~true or false~~ ^{right or wrong} but only ~~opinions~~ subjective opinions. ~~to whether it is right or not.~~ Homosexuality is strongly opposed by Natural Law which is closely linked to the Roman Catholic Church. They believe that "every sperm is sacred" and so sex should be used purely for procreation, which homosexual practises cannot achieve. The Roman Catholic Church think that having homosexual inclinations are ok as long as you don't put these inclinations into practise. Natural Law gives you clear cut ~~gri~~ rules ~~at~~ as to what you should or should not do and Natural Law believes sex is purely for procreation and so homosexuality is wrong. Although this ethical theory gives you clear cut rules to obey, ~~you~~ you could say that the teachings are outdated and should be changed. This view was taken by Jack ~~Dominica~~ ^{Dominica}, ~~who~~ ^{a former Catholic} said that homosexuality was acceptable if you are in a stable and loving relationship.

~~sex~~ ~~Although it seems that the Roman Catholic view is strict~~

Utilitarianism is a much more liberal ethical theory who ~~to~~ only have one rule, the principle of utility which must be obeyed. The principle of utility states that an action is ~~right~~ good if it 'produces the greatest happiness for the greatest number'. Utilitarianism is a

to teleological theory of ethics so the consequences are more important than the action itself. Utilitarian's would regard homosexuality ~~permi~~ acceptable as long as it did not become the norm as this could be damaging to society as eventually society would die out as there would be no one procreating. Although this seems a valid argument, modern technology and science has come up with a number of artificial reproduction methods that could sustain the human race. *

Jeremy Bentham, an act utilitarian ~~said~~ ~~not the~~ ~~pro~~ and quantitative utilitarian suggested that sex with more than ~~one~~ ~~to~~ ~~two~~ one people was acceptable as it is producing happiness for the greatest number. One could ultimately adapt his thinking and apply it to homosexuality.

John Stuart Mill, a rule and qualitative utilitarian believed that by having sex with more than one person at a time is wrong as you are invading the sovereignty of the individual and unlike Bentham, Mill considers the quality of the pleasure the most important factor to consider.

* this ~~st~~ view was supported by Shulamith Firestone, a feminist who argued that women need to own the means of reproduction for ^{there to be} an androgynous society. She believed that an androgynous society would lead to heterosexual relationships no longer being classed as the norm as sexuality would be irrelevant and so therefore

homosexuality would be ~~to~~ accepted by more people.

Although Utilitarianism concentrates on the ~~the~~ consequences of ~~an~~ actions, it is hard to predict the consequences with any accuracy and it does not give you any fixed rules when it comes to sexual affairs, unlike Natural Law.

Kantian Ethics could be seen as a ~~good~~ helpful ethical theory when considering issues surrounding homosexuality because it is rooted in duty and Kant says, "duty for duty's sake" you should do your duty without any ~~of~~ emotional inclinations or feelings. This could be seen as inhumane and unnatural as ~~most~~ most people rely on their emotions, ~~not duty~~

Kant is quite liberal when it comes to homosexuality as long as you treat the person you are in a relationship with, ~~not as a~~ ~~meant~~ as an end in themselves and not as a means to an end. Kant would argue against homosexual pornography as you are using someone for your own pleasure which is wrong.

Kant believes that marriage is not for the purpose of procreation but rather for the love of the two people involved. Therefore ~~we~~ ~~one~~ could say that he is in favour of homosexual marriages ~~as~~ irrelevant of the fact that they cannot reproduce naturally.

~~We could apply~~

A Kantian ~~also applies~~ ~~his~~ categorical imperative to issues surrounding homosexuality. Kant says

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that we can only universalise a maxim if it is what everyone else would do in that specific situation. so for example, "everyone should become homosexual" would not be logical as it could not be applied to everyone, everywhere as not everyone wants a homosexual relationship.

Kant's theory of ethics is helpful in that it guides a person in what to do but unlike natural law it allows for homosexual relationships if you treat each other as equals and with love. therefore, for the modern day, ~~the~~ Kant is a helpful ethical theory when it comes to issues surrounding homosexuality.

Relativism is the view that ~~everyone's~~ views are different for everyone, everywhere at all times. Situation Ethics would say that as long as you treat your partner with agape you are doing the right thing so homosexual relationships would be acceptable if they were treated with love.

Michael Foucault, a post-modernist post-modernist Christian said that we are all naturally born as bisexuals but we have been socially conditioned ~~to~~ by our society to accept heterosexuality as the norm. ~~is~~ ethical

relativism holds no objective truth and so ~~could be~~ homosexuality could be seen as acceptable.

In conclusion, although natural law gives us clear guidelines and rules upon which to follow, if the theory itself could be seen as outdated. Both Utilitarianism and Kant are more liberal in their approaches but do not specifically say what to do in specific situations. A reason why natural law is the most outdated and unhelpful is that modern science has discovered what's called an errogenous zone in the male anatomy thus we could argue that it is God wants us as humans to experiment with homosexual ~~sex~~ practised as he has given both men and women this zone ^{of pleasure} therefore Kant and relativism are seen as the most helpful in discussing homosexual issues.

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