

Ethics

Applied Ethics

Social Ethics

Work Booklet

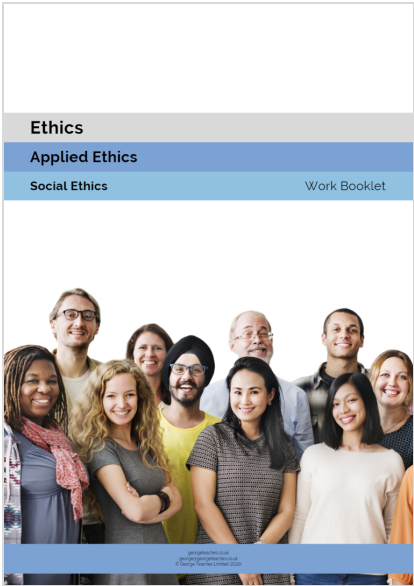


Preface

This work booklet is all about social ethics. It covers the important elements of this complex and ever evolving branch of applied ethics, including significant concepts and issues (like sexism, racism, and ableism), the ideas of well-known thinkers (like Martin Luther King Jr and Joni Eareckson Tada), and debates in social ethics. Additionally, it covers the legal, social, and religious perspectives (in Christianity and Judaism) on the various issues arising from them. It is a comprehensive resource, and provides clearly arranged spaces for organised note-taking.

This work booklet follows the video lessons available at George Teaches, and is designed for use in conjunction with them. It is accompanied by information sheets, which are also available in a single information booklet. Additional materials on Martin Luther King Jr and Joni Eareckson Tada can be accessed online, which comprehensively summarise their famous works on social ethics. Throughout this work booklet, key questions are used as subtitles, key terms and key thinkers are highlighted in separate boxes, and areas for the consolidation of notes are provided (most notably at the beginning).

I am deeply indebted to my colleagues and students for the production of this publication, which has been inspired by their desire for more extensive and holistic resources for teaching and learning about ethics. At all times, I have attempted to produce material that covers popular and important content, but is not confined by the straitjacket of any particular curriculum or specification. Consequently, whilst this covers all of the relevant content for social ethics at A Level, it goes far beyond. My earnest hope is that it is capable of both supporting students of all abilities and challenging the most able to embark upon their own self-directed enquiries. Above all, it is my sincerest wish that it proves beneficial to both your teaching and your learning of social ethics, be you teacher or student (or, as I am, be you both).



George

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Key Terms and Key Thinkers in Social Ethics

Ableism	Applied Ethics
Equality before God	Equality of Opportunity
Equality of Outcome	Post-Enlightenment
Pre-Enlightenment	Racism
Sanctity of Life	Sexism
Social Ethics	Speciesism

Martin Luther King Jr (1929-1968)

Joni Eareckson Tada (b. 1949)

**Religious
Perspectives in
Social Ethics**

**Legal and Social
Perspectives in
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**Debates in
Social Ethics**

**Introduction to
Social Ethics**

**Issues in
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**Martin Luther
King Jr on Racism**

**Joni Eareckson
Tada on Ableism**

Introduction to Social Ethics

- 1. **What** is social ethics and how is it approached?
- 2. **How** do the approaches to social ethics work?
- 3. **Why** are social ethics and its approaches important?

1. **What** is social ethics and how is it approached?

Ethics is a large field that can be divided into three branches: applied ethics, meta-ethics, and normative ethics. To understand social ethics, it is necessary to understand where it is located in the field of ethics. Write definitions for "applied ethics" and "social ethics".

Applied Ethics	Social Ethics

There are two significant approaches to social ethics, and most human beings adopt one of them. There are important differences between the two approaches, because they are influenced by different interpretations of the principle of equality. Make a note about the two approaches (i.e. pre-Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment).

Approaches to Social Ethics	
Pre-Enlightenment	Post-Enlightenment

2. **How** do the approaches to social ethics work?

The approaches to social ethics are inspired by different interpretations of the principle of equality. The pre-Enlightenment approach is inspired by the belief that the principle of equality can be satisfied by numerical equality or proportional equality, which does not require all human beings to be treated equally in society. This contributes to

types of discrimination like sexism, racism, and ableism. The post-Enlightenment approach is inspired by the belief that the principle of equality can only be satisfied by moral equality, which requires all human beings to be treated equally because they are human (but contributes to speciesism). Make a note about these three key terms.

Sexism	Racism
Ableism	Speciesism

3. **Why** are social ethics and its approaches important?

In brief, social ethics and their approaches are very important, because they affect how human beings are treated in society. Consider the differences between pre-Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment approaches to social ethics, and make a note about why they are important.

Why the Approaches to Social Ethics Are Important		
Approach	How	Why
Pre-Enlightenment	Consider some human beings equally in ethical decision-making.	
	Consider most human beings equally in ethical decision-making.	
Post-Enlightenment	Consider all human beings equally in ethical decision-making.	

Issues in Social Ethics

- 1. **What** are the key issues in social ethics?
- 2. **How** are the key issues in social ethics approached?
- 3. **Why** are the approaches to the key issues in social ethics important?

1. **What** are the key issues in social ethics?

In order for most societies to function, it is necessary for them to discriminate between their members for various justifiable reasons. For example, most human beings consider it justifiable to discriminate between adults and children in issuing driving licences. Nevertheless, the practice of discrimination can lead to unfair and unjustifiable types of discrimination, and these are generally the instances that give rise to issues. Make a note about three of the key issues in social ethics (i.e. sexism, racism, and ableism).

Key Issues in Social Ethics		
Sexism	Racism	Ableism

2. **How** are the key issues in social ethics approached?

The key issues in social ethics are approached in two different ways: some people adopt the pre-Enlightenment approach and some people adopt the post-Enlightenment approach. Make a note about how the key issues in social ethics are approached.

How the Pre-Enlightenment Approach to Key Issues in Social Ethics Works

How the Post-Enlightenment Approach to Key Issues in Social Ethics Works

3. **Why** are the approaches to the key issues in social ethics important?

The approaches to sexism, racism, and ableism are important for several reasons, many of which are obvious. Arguably most importantly, the approaches influence what societies look like. Make a note of how people who follow the pre-Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment approaches address issues in social ethics.

How the Pre-Enlightenment and Post-Enlightenment Approaches Address Issues in Social Ethics

Pre-Enlightenment	Post-Enlightenment

Beyond what societies look like, and the unfairness and injustice of prejudice and discrimination, the key issues in social ethics are important for other reasons as well. Make a note of three additional reasons why the approaches to the key issues in social ethics are important.

Why the Approaches to the Key Issues in Social Ethics are Important

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Martin Luther King Jr on Racism

- 1. **Who** was Martin Luther King Jr and what are his key ideas on racism?
- 2. **How** do Martin Luther King Jr's key ideas on racism work?
- 3. **Why** are Martin Luther King Jr's key ideas on racism important?

1. **Who** was Martin Luther King Jr and what are his key ideas on racism?

Martin Luther King Jr (1929-1968) was an American Christian pastor and leader of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1948, he received a BA in sociology from Morehouse College, before following his father into the Church. Alongside preaching, Martin Luther King Jr continued his studies; he received a PhD from Boston University in 1955, and led the Montgomery bus boycott in the same year. During the following decade, he organised numerous mass nonviolent protests against racial discrimination. Make a note about who he was and what he did.

Martin Luther King Jr (1929-1968)

Martin Luther King Jr introduced three key ideas about racism in his book, Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? Make a note about three of his key ideas.

Key Ideas of Martin Luther King Jr on Racism

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2. **How** do Martin Luther King Jr's key ideas on racism work?

Martin Luther King Jr.'s key ideas form an argument that calls for mass nonviolent protest in order to eradicate racial discrimination, and outline the concrete measures that the Civil Rights Movement should campaign for. In brief, his key ideas encourage human beings to eradicate racism and poverty. Explain how each key idea works.

How the Key Ideas of Martin Luther King Jr on Racism Work		
Racism is extremely deep-rooted for numerous reasons.	Racism is possible to overcome through nonviolent protest.	Racism is connected to economic exploitation and poverty.

3. **Why** are Martin Luther King Jr's key ideas on racism important?

The key ideas of Martin Luther King Jr are important for three reasons in particular. Make a note about why his key ideas are important.

Why the Key Ideas of Martin Luther King Jr on Racism Are Important	
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Joni Eareckson Tada on Ableism

- 1. **Who** is Joni Eareckson Tada and what are her key ideas on ableism?
- 2. **How** do Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas on ableism work?
- 3. **Why** are Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas on ableism important?

1. **Who** is Joni Eareckson Tada and what are her key ideas on ableism?

Joni Eareckson Tada (b. 1949) is an American disability rights advocate, author, and evangelical Christian. In 1967, she suffered a horrific diving accident that left her paralysed from the shoulders down. She spent several years undergoing physical therapy and occupational therapy, during which she learned how to draw and paint by mouth. In 1974, Barbara Walters interviewed her on The Today Show, covering her art, disability, and Christian faith; this appearance sparked considerable interest in her story. Make a note about who she is and what she has done.

Joni Eareckson Tada (b. 1949)

Joni Eareckson Tada introduced several key ideas about ableism in her book, Joni: An Unforgettable Story. Make a note about three of her key ideas.

Key Ideas of Joni Eareckson Tada on Ableism

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2. **How** do Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas on ableism work?

Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas form a strong argument against ableism in all its forms. However, it is not presented as an academic thesis; instead, it is presented as an autobiographical account of her lived experience. In brief, her key ideas implicitly inspire improved treatment of the disabled. Explain how each key idea works.

How the Key Ideas of Joni Eareckson Tada on Ableism Work		
Ableism is part of mainstream culture in most societies.	Ableism is exacerbated by its ability to hide in plain sight.	Ableism is based on incorrect assumptions about quality of life.

3. **Why** are Joni Eareckson Tada's key ideas on ableism important?

The key ideas of Joni Eareckson Tada are important for three reasons in particular. Make a note about why her key ideas are important.

Why the Key Ideas of Joni Eareckson Tada on Ableism Are Important	
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Debates in Social Ethics

- 1. **What** are the debates in social ethics?
- 2. **How** do the debates in social ethics work?
- 3. **Why** are the debates in social ethics important?

1. **What** are the debates in social ethics?

The most important debates in social ethics go beyond those involved in social issues, like sexism, racism, and ableism. This does not mean that these social issues are less important, but that responses to them rely upon the outcomes of ethical debates at a deeper level. Fundamentally, it is the answers to these deeper level debates that dictate which approach to social ethics people adopt. Make a note about three of the most important debates in social ethics (i.e. principle, type, and application).

Debates in Social Ethics		
Principle	Type	Application

The very important debate about the type of equality that societies should seek to achieve is over whether societies should attempt to pursue equality of opportunity, which ensures people access to the same life chances, or equality of outcome, which ensures people the same income and wealth by death (or some other milestone). Consequently, it is important to know what these types of equality are in order to understand this debate. Write definitions for "equality of opportunity" and "equality of outcome".

Equality of Opportunity	Equality of Outcome

2. **How** do the debates in social ethics work?

The debates in social ethics are about more than social issues. In fact, debates about principle, type, and application affect other areas of applied ethics as well (e.g. animal ethics, and medical ethics). Make a note about how the debates in social ethics work.

How the Debates in Social Ethics Work		
Principle	Type	Application

3. **Why** are the debates in social ethics important?

The debates in social ethics are important for several reasons. Arguably the most important is the effect they have on societies around the world and what they are like to live in. Make a note about how the debates in social ethics affect human societies

How the Debates in Social Ethics Affect Societies

Beyond the effect they have on human societies, the debates in social ethics are important for other reasons related to the influence they have on addressing social issues. Make a note of three additional reasons why the debates in social ethics are important.

Why the Debates in Social Ethics are Important	
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Legal and Social Perspectives in Social Ethics

- 1. **What** are the legal and social perspectives in social ethics?
- 2. **How** do the legal and social perspectives in social ethics work?
- 3. **Why** are the legal and social perspectives in social ethics important?

1. **What** are the legal and social perspectives in social ethics?

Perspectives are viewpoints, and both the national legal system and its representatives, and the people of the United Kingdom, have different perspectives on social ethics. Make a note about the legal perspective and the social perspective in social ethics.

Legal Perspective

Social Perspective

2. **How** do the legal and social perspectives in social ethics work?

Since the Second World War in the United Kingdom, the legal perspective in social ethics has tended towards the promotion of greater equality between British people; however, this process has been largely reactive, sometimes in response to specific protests. Make a note about three Acts of Parliament in social ethics.

How the Legal Perspective in Social Ethics Works	
Sex Discrimination Act	
Race Relations Act	
Equality Act	

Just like the legal perspective, the social perspective in social ethics has tended towards the promotion of greater equality between British people; however, arguably, it has been the perspective that has driven this change. The social perspective is relatively progressive, which means that it generally seeks to effect change rather than preserve the status quo. Make a note about three important protests in social ethics that have effected legal change in the United Kingdom.

How the Social Perspective in Social Ethics Works	
Ford Sewing Machinists Strike	
George Floyd Protests	
Disability Rights Protests	

3. **Why** are the legal and social perspectives in social ethics important?

The legal and social perspectives in social ethics govern how the principle of equality is applied in society; consequently, they are incredibly important to what the United Kingdom looks and feels like. Generally, the legal perspective is considered the most important, because it has the force of law; however, this does not always mean it leads to the most significant change. Make a note about how the legal and social perspectives in social ethics can effect change in how social issues are addressed.

How the Legal and Social Perspectives in Social Ethics Effect Change

Beyond the effect they have on change, the legal and social perspectives in social ethics are important for other reasons related to the nature of social issues and how they are addressed. Make a note of three additional reasons why the legal and social perspectives in social ethics are important.

Why the Legal and Social Perspectives in Social Ethics Are Important	
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Religious Perspectives in Social Ethics

- 1. **What** are the religious perspectives in social ethics?
- 2. **How** do the religious perspectives in social ethics work?
- 3. **Why** are the religious perspectives in social ethics important?

1. **What** are the religious perspectives in social ethics?

There are numerous religious perspectives in social ethics. Christianity and Judaism share some common scriptures, most notably what Jews call "the Hebrew Bible" or "Tanakh" and Christians call "the Old Testament". These scriptures are open to different interpretations about how human beings should treat one another in society, and are heavily influenced by two key ideas: the idea of equality before God and the idea of the sanctity of life. Make a note about equality before God and the sanctity of life.

Equality before God

Sanctity of Life

2. **How** do the religious perspectives in social ethics work?

The religious perspectives in social ethics are many and varied. Even among Christians, differing interpretations of the Bible lead to widely diverging approaches to social issues. Make a note about religious perspectives on sexism, racism, and ableism.

How the Religious Perspectives in Social Ethics Works	
Social Issue	How
Sexism	

How the Religious Perspectives in Social Ethics Works	
Social Issue	How
Racism	
Ableism	

3. **Why** are the religious perspectives in social ethics important?

One significant reason why the religious perspectives in social ethics are important is because there are so many religious people on Earth. The numbers involved mean religious leaders are incredibly powerful. Make a note about how the religious perspectives in social ethics can effect change.

How the Religious Perspectives in Social Ethics Effect Change

Beyond the effect they have on change, the religious perspectives in social ethics are important for other reasons related to the nature of both religions and societies. Make a note of three additional reasons why the religious perspectives in social ethics are important.

Why the Religious Perspectives in Social Ethics Are Important

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