

Louis Pojman on Utilitarianism

1. **Who** was Louis Pojman and what are his key ideas on utilitarianism?
2. **How** do Louis Pojman's key ideas on utilitarianism work?
3. **Why** are Louis Pojman's key ideas on utilitarianism important?

1. **Who** was Louis Pojman and what are his key ideas on utilitarianism?

Louis Pojman (1935-2005) was an American philosopher known for authoring several popular textbooks and supporting moral objectivism. He began his academic career relatively late in life, earning a MA in 1967 and a PhD in 1972, both from Union Theological Seminary, before completing a DPhil at the University of Oxford in 1977. His research interests included classic problems in the philosophy of religion and ethics, both of which he wrote about extensively in approximately 60 books and 80 articles. Make a note about who he was and what he did.

Louis Pojman (1935-2005)

Louis Pojman introduced three key ideas about utilitarianism in his book, *Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong*. Make a note about these three key ideas.

Key Ideas of Louis Pojman on Utilitarianism

1

2

3

2. **How** do Louis Pojman's key ideas on utilitarianism work?

Louis' Pojman's key ideas on utilitarianism reduce the theory to its classical varieties and analyse them closely. He evaluated whether or not modern societies could successfully implement act or rule utilitarianism. Explain how each of Louis Pojman's key ideas works.

How the Key Ideas of Louis Pojman on Utilitarianism Work		
Utilitarianism can be reduced to two types based on two key principles.	Act utilitarianism in particular has several significant weaknesses.	Multilevel rule utilitarianism offers a workable normative ethical theory.

3. **Why** are Louis Pojman's key ideas on utilitarianism important?

The key ideas of Louis Pojman are important for three reasons in particular (although there are several others). Make a note about why his key ideas are important.

Why the Key Ideas of Louis Pojman on Utilitarianism Are Important	
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2	
3	