

# Application of Utilitarianism

1. **What** is the application of utilitarianism?
2. **How** does the application of utilitarianism work?
3. **Why** is the application of utilitarianism important?

## 1. **What** is the application of utilitarianism?

The application of utilitarianism involves an identical process to the application of any normative ethical theory. This process begins with identifying an ethical issue in a branch of applied ethics (e.g. animal ethics or military ethics). Once an issue is identified, the normative ethical theory is applied by asking how an adherent of the theory would address the issue. Make a note about two of the most important ethical issues for people today: medical research involving animal experimentation and nuclear deterrence.

### Medical Research

### Nuclear Deterrence

## 2. **How** does the application of utilitarianism work?

Utilitarianism is applied to the issues of medical research involving animal experimentation and nuclear deterrence by evaluating their effects on human beings and animals using the principle of utility. It requires calculating the amount of pain and pleasure that medical research involving animal experimentation and nuclear deterrence produce for the human beings and animals affected by them. Make a note about how utilitarianism is applied to medical research and nuclear deterrence by calculating the pain and pleasure they produce.

### Medical Research

Pain Produced

Pleasure Produced

### Nuclear Deterrence

Pain Produced

Pleasure Produced

3. **Why** is the application of utilitarianism important?

The application of utilitarianism is important because it informs how utilitarians should respond to specific issues in applied ethics. The process will influence different types of utilitarians in different ways, depending on the emphases of their particular type. Make a note about why the application of utilitarianism is important.

### Why the Application of Utilitarianism Is Important