

Context of Utilitarianism

1. **What** is the context of utilitarianism?
2. **How** has the context of utilitarianism influenced utilitarianism?
3. **Why** is the context of utilitarianism important?

1. **What** is the context of utilitarianism?

Neither utilitarianism nor its different types arose in a vacuum. Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) is usually credited as the first person to systematically articulate it, in a form now referred to as "classical utilitarianism", but today there are several different types. Make a note outlining the different types of utilitarianism.

Types of Utilitarianism	
Classical	Ideal
Negative	Preference

Classical utilitarianism, and the various types of utilitarianism that followed, were all partly inspired by different historical contexts, including the Bloody Code (c. 1680-1820), World War II (1939-1945), and the period of intensive animal farming since the 1950s. Make a note outlining the context of utilitarianism.

Context of Utilitarianism

2. **How** has the context of utilitarianism influenced utilitarianism?

Classical, ideal, negative, and preference utilitarianism are not the only types of utilitarianism; however, they are among those that were most obviously influenced by their historical contexts. Often, the influence of historical context on the conception and development of each of these types is overlooked; however, close investigation reveals that it was a driving force in most cases. Consequently, these different types of utilitarianism can be best understood as products of their specific times, and investigating their times can help explain why they work the way they do. Explain how context influenced the development of classical, negative, and preference utilitarianism.

How the Context of Utilitarianism Influenced Utilitarianism

Bloody Code	World War II	Intensive Animal Farming

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

The context of utilitarianism is important because it has shaped a normative ethical theory that has exerted a tremendous influence over policy-making in more economically developed countries (among many other things). Make a note of three reasons why the context of utilitarianism is important.

Why the Context of Utilitarianism Is Important

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