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| **Class/Subject: Philosophy** | **Lesson 23- “Consequentialism in Ethics”** |
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| **Objective(s):**  **SWBAT define and distinguish between the varying types of consequentialist philosophies by evaluating hypothetical ethical situations. SWBAT then evaluate what they personally feel to be the most ethical.** | **Unit- “ETHICS”** |
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| **Philosophical Quote of the Day:**  *“*[*The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation.*](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/j/jeremybent385974.html)*” -*[***Jeremy Bentham***](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/j/jeremybent385974.html) | **Philosophical Video of the Day:**  **“Bentham in 3 Minutes”-** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wS9bey162PU**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wS9bey162PU) |
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| **Key Points of the Day:**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Types of Consequentialism** |  |   **Some consequentialist theories include:**   * [**Utilitarianism**](http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_utilitarianism.html)**, which holds that an action is right if it leads to the most happiness for the greatest number of people ("happiness" here is defined as the maximization of pleasure and the minimization of pain).** * [**Hedonism**](http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_hedonism.html)**, which is the philosophy that pleasure is the most important pursuit of mankind, and that individuals should strive to maximize their own total pleasure (net of any pain or suffering).**[**Epicureanism**](http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_epicureanism.html)**is a more moderate approach (which still seeks to maximize happiness, but which defines happiness more as a state of tranquility than pleasure).** * [**Egoism**](http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_egoism.html)**, which holds that an action is right if it maximizes good for the self. Thus, Egoism may license actions which are good for an individual even if detrimental to the general welfare.** | * [**Asceticism**](http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_asceticism.html)**, in some ways, the opposite of**[**Egoism**](http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_egoism.html)**in that it describes a life characterized by abstinence from egoistic pleasures especially to achieve a spiritual goal.** * [**Altruism**](http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_altruism.html)**, which prescribes that an individual take actions that have the best consequences for everyone except for himself, according to**[**Auguste Comte**](http://www.philosophybasics.com/philosophers_comte.html)**'s dictum, "Live for others". Thus, individuals have a moral obligation to help, serve or benefit others, if necessary at the sacrifice of self-interest.** * **Rule Consequentialism, which is a theory (sometimes seen as an attempt to reconcile Consequentialism and Deontology), that moral behavior involves following certain rules, but that those rules should be chosen based on the consequences that the selection of those rules have. Some theorists holds that a certain set of minimal rules are necessary to ensure appropriate actions, while some hold that the rules are not absolute and may be violated if strict adherence to the rule would lead to much more undesirable consequences.** * **Negative Consequentialism, which focuses on minimizing bad consequences rather than promoting good consequences. This may actually require active intervention (to prevent harm from being done), or may only require passive avoidance of bad outcomes.** |
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| **Journal Entry:**  **“Define the various forms of consequentialist ethics and which of these is most in line with your personal system of ethics? Why do you feel your thinking is the most ethical?** | **Supplemental Reading and philosopher: *“An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation” by: Jeremy Bentham***    *Jeremy Bentham was a British philosopher, jurist, and social reformer. He is regarded as the founder of modern utilitarianism.* |