

Guidelines for Preparation

Broad questions to ask when approaching a topic from a philosophical (ethical) point of view:

- What is/are the issue(s) involved? For example, is it one of conflict of rights? Of individual rights versus benefits to society in general? Honesty? Integrity? Privacy? Social responsibility? Quality of life? Equality and fairness? Loyalty?
- Are there principles or frameworks that we can appeal to in moral decision-making? Can these help in cases where there is a possible conflict, for example, a conflict between individual liberty and the good of society?

Examples of moral principles and frameworks:

Utilitarianism: *always choose that action which promotes the greatest happiness (benefit) for the greatest number of people ...*

Kantianism: *always choose that action which ensures that a person is always treated as an end, never as a means...*

Rights theory: *always choose the action that respects the inalienable 'natural' rights to which we, as humans, are entitled...*

- Are 'decision-making' frameworks or principles like these adequate for helping us to form judgements of an ethical kind, or do we need to think more broadly about how we should live? For example, although individual freedom or rights may be important, are these sometimes worth subjugating in the interests of pursuing the kind of society we want to live in?

Resources

Recommended:

This interview is specially recommended for anyone new to the subject:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/everyday-ethics-%E2%80%94-making-ethical-decisions/8737238>

Programs to look out for on ABC Radio National include *The Minefield*; *Future Tense*; *The Philosophers' Zone*: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/search/>

Also, use the search engine on this home page for specific topics.

Santa Clara University's *Markkula Center for Applied Ethics*,
<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/>

The *Ethics Centre*, <http://www.ethics.org.au/on-ethics/blog>

An archived BBC site on Ethics: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/>

A locally-produced TV series, *Ethics Matters*: <http://ethicsmatterstvseries.com/tv-series/>

For specialist philosophical topics and writers, see relevant entries in:

The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu>

The Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy: www.iep.utm.edu

www.philosophypages.com

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/philosophy/LPSG/Ethics.htm>

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy

Online journals and blogs that may have relevant entries:

<http://www.theconversation.com>

<http://insidestory.org.au>

<https://aeon.co/>

<http://www.tai.org.au/>

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au>

<http://www.eurekastreet.com.au>

<http://www.ipa.org.au/>

www.griffithreview.com