

# A Good Life Knowledge Organizer

## 1. Key People

The UK Parliament	The place where our laws are made! MPs put forward bills, bills are approved or rejected by the Lords. If they're approved, the monarch usually agrees to them, then they become law.
Immanuel Kant	A German philosopher who says that we can work out what's always right and wrong, which gives us our moral duties.
Jeremy Bentham	An English philosopher who said that everyone wants happiness and we should all act so that as many people are happy as possible.
Aristotle	A Greek philosopher who said that we all have a role in society and we should work at being the best we can be in that role.

## 2. You need to know...

- There are **many ways** of deciding if something is right or wrong
  - Utilitarianism is a form of **consequentialism**
  - Deontologists say some things are **always** right and some things are **always** wrong
  - People who follow virtue ethics work at improving their **character** through ingraining good moral **habits**
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- Many religious and non-religious people follow the **Golden Rule**; treat others as **you** want to be treated. This needs to be understood in the light of what "good" means to **different** groups of religious and non-religious people.
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- People who want "the **right** to die" say that their terminal or degenerative medical condition means that their life **isn't worth** living or soon won't be, so it's wrong to make them stay alive and **suffer**
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- The Rehat Maryada is the Sikh code of conduct, emphasizing worshipping God, **equality** and **servicing** the community
  - The Wiccan Rede is the code of conduct promoted by Wicca and other ancient religions, and is similar to the law of **karma**
  - The Rastafari Code of Conduct states that Rastafari people should promote the "**virtues of tolerance, respect and fraternity**"
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- Veganism is a **morally-based** approach to food and consumer goods. Vegans do not eat, use or buy anything that is an **animal-based** product. This includes meat, dairy foods, leather and silk.

## 3. Key vocabulary

**consequentialism:** The belief that the result of an act is what makes it right/wrong

**deontology:** The belief that we have a duty to follow absolute moral rules

**virtue ethics:** a philosophical outlook that says that we should/need to work at being good

**justice:** Fairness in the way people are dealt with

**discrimination:** Treating a person or group differently because they're different

**quality of life:** The belief that life is precious or sacred. For many religious people, only human life holds this special status.

**sanctity of life:** The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable; how "good" someone's life is

## 4. Themes

human rights 	religious freedom <b>Co-exist</b>	morality 
responsibility 	identity 	guidance 

## 5. Contexts

Even though more people are not Christian than ever before in the UK, most people support the UK's laws, which mainly have a religious basis.

The Suicide Act states that it is illegal to help someone to die. The punishment is up to 14 years in prison. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says everyone has the right to be free. Some people say the law goes **against this right**.

Utilitarianism came out of Bentham's desire for the English legal system to change, and he thought about using general utilitarian principles for governing communities. Since then, however, many say his ideas can be applied to individual actions.