TOPIC: Ethics and Religion

How do we form our morals; what is it that makes something write or wrong? How do we employ our sense of morality in our daily lives?

Key Ideas		Thinkers	
Absolute Morality	The view that right and wrong is fixed, it cannot be a matter of opinion or culture or tradition. An example would be it is wrong to murder.	**Plato**	Plato believed that goodness could not come from God, as He could say that lying was good or murder was good. Plato said this must be wrong. What is good cannot change and cannot be what god decides. Goodness is therefore OUTSIDE of God
Relative Morality	The view that right and wrong change according to the situation, culture or background. Right and wrong is a matter of opinion.	**Einstein**	Held a humanist view that what is right and wrong should be based on a person's behaviour, qualities like sympathy, education and upbringing, he believed no religious foundation is necessary
Utilitarianism	**A**n ethical theory that determines right from wrong by focusing on the consequences. **T**he most ethical choice is the one that will produce the greatest good for the greatest number	**Aquinas**	Believed that just like God created the laws of physics to control the Universe that He also created a Moral law to guide Human behaviour. Aristotle believed Humans have an innate understanding of what is right/wrong given to us by God.
Natural Law	This is an absolutist theory that believes that God created everything for a purpose and that Humans were created with the ability to reason/think and can therefore find out and follow that intended purpose	**Immanuel Kant**	He believed to act morally is to do your duty and to do your duty is to obey moral law. Kant thought duty was a command you must do without conditions, e.g. Do not tell lies. This is similar to the Golden Rule in which Jesus says "do to others as you would have them do to you"
Divine Command Theory	An absolutist theory that states that what is right and wrong is decided by God. Good or bad are whatever God commands. An example are the 10 Commandments	**Jeremy Bentham**	Bentham equated goodness with pleasure and the absence of pain. He believed that you can carefully measure the possible consequences or outcomes of an action before deciding which choice to take.

KEY VOCABULARY:		KEY VOCABULARY:	
Morality	Is the rules and standards determining which actions are right and wrong	**Sin**	A deliberate immoral action, breaking a moral or religious law. Separation from God.
Human Rights	Are the basic entitlements of all human beings given to them simply for being human. eg. The right to an education.	**Original sin**	**A** Christian teachingthat says that everyone is born with a built-in urge to do bad things and to disobey God; an important doctrine within the Catholic Church. In originated from The Fall (Adam and Eve)
Sanctity of life	The belief that human life is sacred, holy, precious a gift from God	**Quality of life**	The extent to which life is pleasurable and has meaning
Abortion	The ending of a pregnancy so that it does not result in the birth of a child	**Euthanasia**	The act of killing or permitting the death of a person who is suffering from a serious illness