UTILITARIANISM

EXAMINING UTILITARIANISM

What did you learn?

1 Bentham and Mill had different ideas about the connection between pleasure and happiness. They also had different ideas about quality and quantity where pleasure is concerned.
   • Link the thinker to the statement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is the quality of the pleasure that is important.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pleasure is one and the same as happiness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pleasure causes happiness, but the link is looser; you can be happy long after the pleasure has passed.</td>
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</tbody>
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2 Mill believed in higher and lower pleasures.
   • What did Mill mean by higher and lower pleasures?
   • How did Mill propose to divide the pleasures into higher and lower ones?

3 Key to any Utilitarian ethic is the principle of utility. In the film, Brad Hooker explains:

   ‘The principle of utility is that actions are right in so far as they tend to produce net benefit; and wrong in so far as they tend to produce the reverse of net benefit, or net harm.’

   • What is another way of putting the principle of utility?

What do you think?

4 Utilitarianism was controversial in its day and is still controversial now.
   • What do you think of it?
   • Can you see any problems for Utilitarianism?