

In general couch arguments using one or more of these words: **benefit, harm, right, obligation, or duty.**

Workable Ethical Theories (consequentialist) based on Quinn's discussion in "Ethics for the Information Age"

	<u>Kantianism</u>	<u>Act Utilitarianism</u>	<u>Rule Utilitarianism</u>	<u>Social Contract</u>	<u>Virtu</u>
Motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People should be guided by universal moral laws of good will and duties and obligations. • Categorical Imperative (2nd Formulation): Treat yourself and others as an end in themselves, never as the means to an end. (p. 73) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An action is good if it benefits someone; causes greatest benefit for the greatest amount of people. • An action is bad if it harms someone; minimizes harm to the most people. • Produces happiness or prevents unhappiness for an individual or a community. • Greatest Happiness Principle. (p. 76) • Benefits and harms can be calculated by these factors: intensity, duration, certainty, propinquity, fecundity, purity, extent. Allows direct comparison of different actions to see if the benefits outweigh the harms. (p. 79) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis relies upon evaluation of benefits and harms. • Provides a set of rules, which when followed, lead to the greatest increase in total happiness. • Individuals and groups choose to follow the rules because it produces the greatest good. • Applies the Principle of Utility to individual actions and moral rules. (p. 76, 82) • Evaluates the consequences of an action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members have rights but no one is above the rules. • We implicitly accept a social contract (rules) when we become part of a group (such as a country). • Government can enforce the rules. • Rawls's Principles of Justice. (p. 87) • Difference Principle: strives for the greatest benefit of the least-advantaged members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
Criteria are...	Based on rules derived by the reasoning process.	Based on actions derived by calculating the factors (see above).	Based on rules of a majority of the culture, religion, government.	Based on rules of government.	Basec
Focus audience is ...	the individual	the individual	groups; everyone in a society.	the individual	the ir
Cases for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is rational. • Produces universal moral guidelines. • Treats everyone as moral equals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive in evaluation of actions. • Does not distinguish between individuals; works for everyone. • Practical and easy to understand. • Focuses on happiness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simpler to evaluate/calculate harms/benefits because it focuses on long term outcomes rather than individual actions. • Rules are set, so not every action needs to be evaluated; consequences are already understood. • Rules survive exceptional situations. • Does not rely on moral luck. • Appeals to the majority of a society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on rights. • Explains why people act in self-interest without common agreement. • Provides clear analysis of certain citizen/government problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •
Cases against	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes no single rule adequately characterizes an action. • Doesn't have a way to resolve a conflict between rules. • Doesn't allow exceptions to moral laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear who to include in calculations; who are the moral beings involved in the decision? • Calculations are too much work. • Intent of the action is not considered; ignores our innate sense of duty. • Hard to see where the lines are drawn. • Doesn't handle the problem of moral luck. • Individual rules work poorly in larger context/community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignores a potentially unjust distribution of good consequences (may ignore minority groups). • Single scale does not apply in every situation. • Some situations may be just, regardless of the rules. • No objective measure of amount of happiness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one actually the contract. • Some actions have multiple characterizations. • Problems with conflicting rights. • May unjustly treat people who cannot uphold contract. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •