

Types of Euthanasia – Uk Legal System

1	What is non treatment? Legal or illegal	Medical professionals withdrawing treatment or switching off life support machines. Legal.
2	What is active euthanasia? Legal or illegal?	Deliberate action of third party to kill a person Illegal
3	What is voluntary euthanasia? Legal or illegal?	A persons life is willingly ended by a third party to stop suffering Illegal
4	What is non-voluntary euthanasia? Legal or illegal?	When a person cannot express their own wishes but there is reasonable grounds to choose euthanasia Illegal
5	What is involuntary euthanasia? Legal or illegal?	When a person is killed against their will. Mainly for a condition/disability Illegal

Sanctity, Quality and the Law around life

1	Name two countries euthanasia is legal?	Switzerland Holland
2	Is it an offence to commit suicide?	Suicide is now decriminalised due to mental health but assisting it is illegal
3	What is the sanctity of life?	Life is sacred and intrinsically good. God given gift.
4	What is the quality of life?	The idea life's value is dependent on certain qualities such as happiness and autonomy
5	Give two religious teaching to support the sanctity of life	'So God created humankind in his own image' 'you shall not murder'
6	Name two scholars who support euthanasia	Peter Singer Joseph Fletcher

Applying Normative theories

1	How does Natural law respond?	Euthanasia is wrong
2	Why do they respond this way?	It goes against the first precept to preserve life and against Bible teachings.
3	How does Situation ethics respond?	Euthanasia is acceptable in some situations
4	Why do they respond this way?	It can be the most loving action and follows agape to end suffering.

Concepts on life

1	What is autonomy?	The idea surrounding who has control over life. Human autonomy means people can make their own choice about death
2	What is personhood?	The quality of human life and what makes someone a person
3	Does the right to die mean?	Humans get the choice to choose how and when they will die
4	What is the argument of dignity?	Humans should be allowed to die with dignity, this often means having independence and intellectual capacity over their body.
5	What is palliative care?	Helping the end stages of life to be as comfortable as possible. Its not active and will not help to extend life.

Key Vocabulary

Non treatment decision	The decision of medical professionals to withdraw medical treatment or life support
Active euthanasia	Deliberate action by a third party to kill a person.
Sanctity of life	The idea life is intrinsically good and sacred
Quality of life	Whether a persons life is good enough to justify continuing living
Personhood	The quality of human life that makes it worthy
Autonomy and the right to die	The idea that human freedom should extend to decide the time and manner of death
Voluntary euthanasia	A person life is ended painlessly by a third party willingly
Non-voluntary euthanasia	When a person is unable to express their wish to die, but there is reasonable grounds for ending their life.
Dignity	Worth or quality
Palliative care	End of life care to make remaining moments more comfortable
Involuntary euthanasia	When a person is killed against their wishes, such as the Nazi's killing disabled people.

The ethical dilemma surrounding Euthanasia is a controversial one, the argument is rooted in the question 'who has the right to take life'. Euthanasia is currently illegal in the UK but there is a lot of debate surrounding whether this law should be changed or not.



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Assisted suicide

A person who wishes to die is helped to die by another person. They may or may not have a serious or terminal illness.

Euthanasia

Literally 'a good death'

Suicide

A person makes a voluntary choice and takes their own life

Active euthanasia

A treatment given that directly causes the death of an individual

Passive euthanasia

A treatment is withheld and this indirectly causes the death of an individual

Sanctity of life- the idea that life is intrinsically sacred or valuable. A religious idea that life is a sacred gift from God. Humans are made in the image of God.

Quality of life- the idea that life's value depends on certain attributes or goods, for example, happiness and autonomy :

1. Recognise the worth of human life
2. Take responsibility for your decisions
3. Respect a person's desire to live or die
4. Being children into the world only if they are wanted
5. Do not discriminate on the basis of species

Autonomy: 'self ruling' we are free and able to make our own decisions

Voluntary euthanasia: Where a person's life is ended at their own request. Usually because of a terminal illness

Non-voluntary euthanasia

Where a severely or terminally ill person's life is ended without their consent, perhaps because they are unable to give consent

Natural Law opposes Euthanasia due to the sanctity of life but it can be argued it supports allowing someone to die naturally.



Situation ethics considers the quality of life is more important but that the outcome should be the most loving thing.

Rachel says the passive act of omission may be crueler than ending a life as the pain may last longer

What the specification says

Sanctity of life	The religious origins of the idea
Quality of life	The secular origins of the concept
Voluntary euthanasia	What it is and its use in the case of incurable and terminal illnesses
Non-voluntary euthanasia	What it is and use for a patient in a persisted vegetative state
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application of Natural law and situation ethics • Whether or not the religious concept of sanctity of life has any meaning in 21st century medical ethics • Whether or not a person should have full autonomy over their own lives and decisions made about it • Whether or not there is a moral difference between medical intervention to end a patient's life and medical non-intervention to end a patient's life 	

The Law

Euthanasia is illegal in the UK but some countries such as Switzerland allow it.

- Suicide is now decriminalized. But it is an offence to assist someone
 - It is legally wrong to administer active euthanasia
 - Passive euthanasia is allowed by medical professionals

Glover suggests 5 options with regard to euthanasia:

1. Take all steps to preserve life
2. Take all ordinary steps to preserve life but not extraordinary
3. Not killing but taking no steps to preservation
4. An act that doesn't intend to kill, but has death as an unforeseen consequences
5. Deliberate act of killing

The Hippocratic Oath states that a doctor cannot do anything that 'acts' as a means to ending the life of a patient.

Sanctity of life	Quality of life
Religious view	Secular view
Intrinsic value of life	Instrumental view
Supported by Natural Law	Supported by situation ethics and utilitarianism
Absolute	Conditional