

Ethical naturalism		
1	What is ethical naturalism?	Moral truths can be discovered by observation of the world
2	What is a moral realist?	The idea moral facts and truth actually exist
3	What is cognitivism?	The belief moral statements are subject to either being truth or false
4	What do we mean by empirically?	by means of observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic
5	What is naturalism?	The idea moral values can be correctly defined by observation of the natural world
6	What is absolutism?	The idea of fixed rules; It is not the same as naturalism but they are closely connected.

Intuitionism		
1	What is intuitionism?	The idea that moral truths are indefinable and self-evident
2	Who is the main scholar for intuitionism?	G.E Moore
3	What is the naturalistic fallacy?	The idea it is a mistake to define moral terms with reference to other non-moral or natural terms
4	How does it recognise goodness?	Not through empirical facts; 'goodness' is recognised through intuition
5	What is a simple idea?	An idea that cannot be broken into parts, e.g: the colour red
6	What is a complex idea?	An idea that can be broken down into parts, e.g: a horse

Emotivism		
1	What is emotivism?	Moral statements are not statements of fact, but are indications of emotional states
2	What is non-cognitivism?	The belief moral statements are not subject to truth or falsity
3	What is logical positivism?	An idea developed by the Vienna Circle, it considers if philosophical analysis can determine if something is meaningful. Associated with Hume,
4	What is the verification principle?	Statements are only meaningful if they are analytic statements or synthetic statements
5	Who is the key thinker for emotivism?	A.J Ayer
6	What is evince?	Ayer's way of explaining how ethical statements may show an emotional state, we may not actually feel the way our words indicate.

Layers of Ethics		
1	What is meta ethics?	From the Greek meta meaning above and beyond. It's the study of the meaning of concepts
2	What is normative ethics?	Considers ethical theories that advise how we ought to behave
3	What is applied ethics?	Discuss specific issues of ethics
4	What is descriptive ethics?	Explored different ethical views and varied cultures
5	Define the 'what is good' is a key question concept	The idea meta ethical questions are the most relevant
6	Define the 'what is good' is not a key ethics question	not the most important as There is no objective moral truth or the question cannot be answered

Key Vocabulary	
Meta-ethics	Means above and beyond. Study of ethical concepts
Normative ethics	Theories of ethics that given advice on how we ought to behave
Naturalism	Moral values can be defined by the observation of the natural world
Moral realism	The belief that right or wrong actually exists; they are real properties
Cognitivism	The belief that moral statements are subject to being either true or false
Intuitionism	The idea that moral truths are indefinable and self-evident
Naturalistic fallacy	The idea that it is a mistake to define moral terms with reference to other non-moral or natural terms.
Emotivism	The idea that moral statements are not statements of fact, but are indicators of emotional states
Non-cognitivism	The belief that moral statements are not subject to truth or falsity
Logical positivism	Developed by the Vienna circle. Considers philosophical analysis to be the way to determine whether an idea is meaningful



What is 'goodness' what do people mean when they use this term? Do right or wrong actually mean anything? Are they meaningless? This is the heart of Meta-Ethics. The topic explores what lies beneath the ethical and moral language we use and discusses the core issues. Meta ethics asks questions about the game itself, not how we play them.

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Logical positivism	



## Year 2: meta ethical theories

Key word	Definition
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**Intuitionism** believes moral truths can be discovered by observations of the world. It is a moral realist theory and cognitivist, believing statements made about right or wrong are either true or false.

### What the specification says

Naturalism	What it is and its application to absolutism
Intuitionism	What it is and its application to thee term 'good'
Emotivism	What it is and its application to relativism

Whether or not what is meant by 'good' is the defining question in the study of ethics  
Whether or not ethical terms such as good, bad, right or wrong:

- Have a objective factual basis
- Reflect only what is in the mind of the person using such terms
- Can be said to be meaningful or meaningless

Whether or not, from a common sense approach, people just know within themselves what is good, bad, right and wrong.

### G. E. Moore:

- Naturalistic fallacy is the key error of naturalism
- We don't recognise good through empirical facts
- Simple ideas: cannot be divided into parts
- Complex ideas: can be broken down



There are no objective values.

— J. L. Mackie —

**Ethical naturalism:** what is right or wrong can be established by looking at the world around us. Moral truths are cognitivist. Naturalists believe ethical terms are meaningful.

Versions:

1. Aquinas- theological naturalism. The has been given by God, moral values can be worked out by understanding God.
2. F.H. Bradley- understand our moral duties by. Observing our position in life. Certain rules also have moral values attached to them.
3. Utilitarianism- argue that we discover right and wrong by discovering what actions lead to pleasure and pain. We can infer what is right and wrong through observing an action.

Naturalism and absolutism:

Strong link. It can be argued by discovering moral values we create absolute rules on right. And wrong.

**Hume:** objects naturalism through his 'ought to' problem. He says no matter how closely we examine the situation itself we will not be able to empirically see or hear the 'wrongness of an action'.

### Moral realism:

1. **Shared moral values:** broad agreement of shared moral values.
2. **Moral progress:** we have made considerable progress in our attitude to topics such as racism.
3. **The need for a standard:** if there is no objective right and wrong then there can be no absolute standard.

**Emotivism:** believes that there is no moral truths; moral statements are based on feeling.

**Vienna circle on verification:** they are logical positivists they suggest:

1. Analytical statements
2. Synthetic statements.

**Prescriptivism:** R.M. Hare argues that when we make moral statements we are not just expressing feelings, we are prescribing them to others.

**Error theory:** J.L Mackie. Argued that there are no moral facts, merely subjective values. When we make moral statements, we speak as though. Statements we make are actually true or false. We are in error.

**Ayer:** agreed with the verification principle. It is important to look at what ethical statements are rather than if they are meaningful. This means looking at 'right' and 'wrong'. Ethical statements show emotions, they don't add things but simply express approval or disapproval.