

# Welcome to A-level Philosophy and Ethics

*You witness a car crash. The wreckage is burning, but you may be able to save one of the two passengers. To your horror, you realise that one of them is your best friend and the other is a famous cancer specialist on the brink of a breakthrough for a cure for the disease. Who do you save?*

Write on your post it note what you would do in this situation.

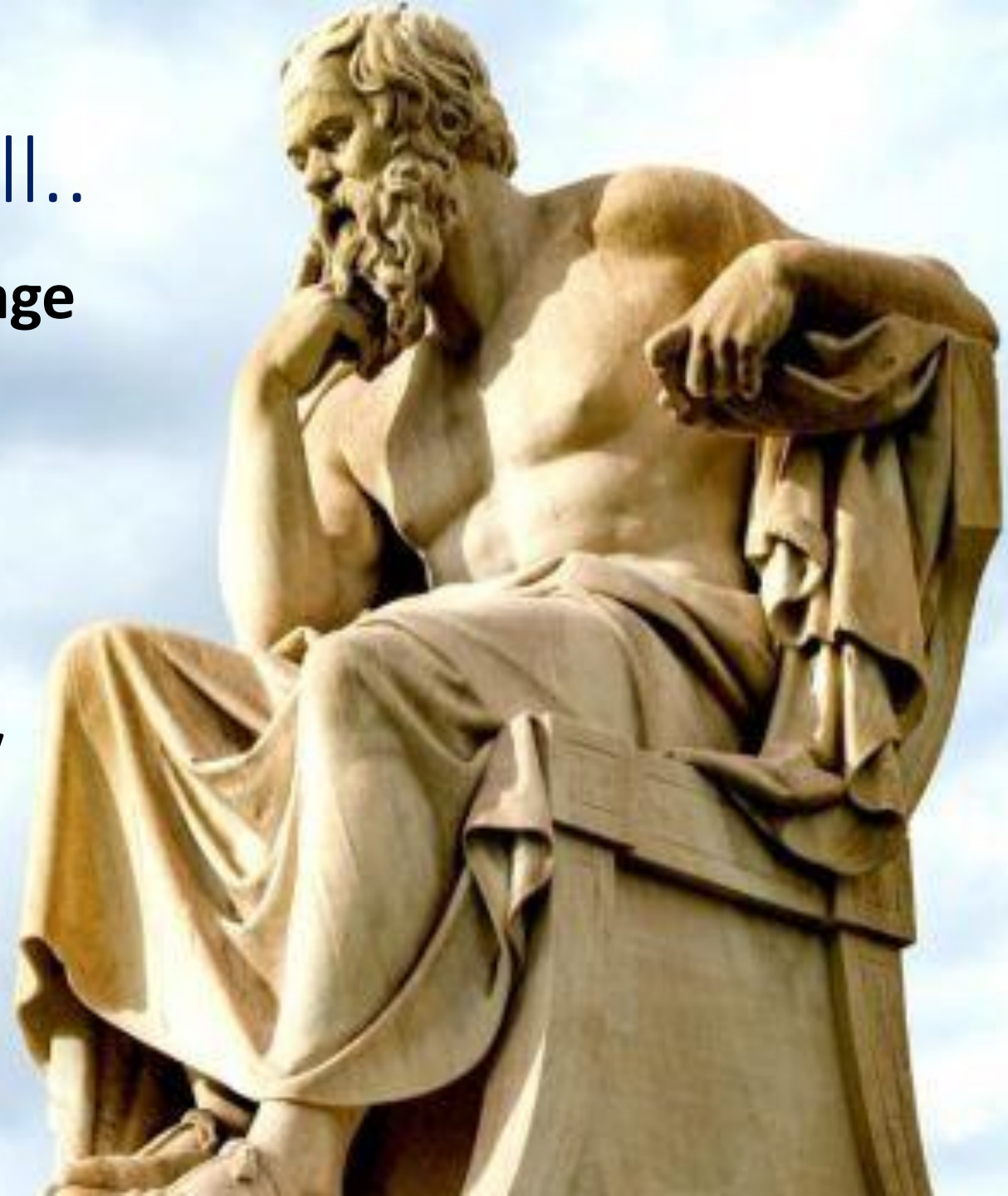
Then think about:

**Why?**

**Is it the right thing to do?**

# Today we will..

- **explore key ethical language and theories**
- **examine our own moral code and whether we are consistent in our thinking and our actions. (Are we good people!?)**
- **get a 'taste' of Philosophy and Ethics Alevel**



# Scenario 1: Key ethical question

- Do the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few?



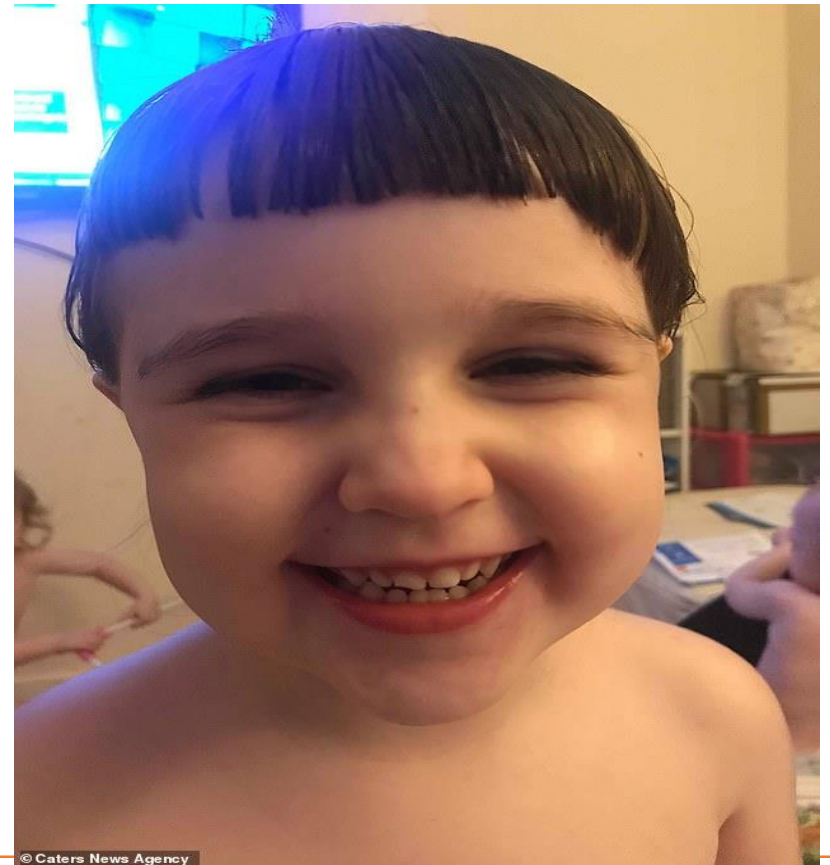
# The Ethics: Teleological

- **Ethics** – the principles by which people live.
- **One ethical theory is that the consequences are judged, not the action itself.**
- **The outcome is important, not the action.**
- **If the consequences are good, the action is.**



## Scenario 2

*Your best friend meets you after having a new hair cut that looks awful and asks you what you think. They are clearly delighted with it. Do you tell the truth?*



On your post it note write down:

**What would you do?**

Then think about:

**Why?**

**Is it the right thing to do?**

# Scenario 2: Key ethical question

Is it sometimes right to do a bad action for a good outcome?



# The Ethics

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## Scenario 3

***You're close to a breakthrough with a new medical treatment, but to complete your work you must carry out some slow and painful experiments on animals.***



**What would you do?  
Why?  
Is it the right thing to do?**



# Scenario 3: The Key Question

- Do all forms of life have equal rights?



# The Ethics: Applied Ethics

- **Applied Ethics focuses of real life dilemmas.**
- **We take different ethics theories and apply them to dilemmas such as abortion, euthanasia, animal testing and business ethics.**

# Scenario 4

***Your ship goes down and you are lost at sea with two others in a life raft. You have no food. Without food there is no hope of rescue before you starve to death. Two would survive by eating the third, or all three die.***



1. What would you do?
2. Why?
3. Is it the right thing to do

# Scenario 4: Key ethical question



- Is an action right or wrong depending on its purpose?



# What does A-level philosophy and ethics have in store for me?

- Component 1: Philosophy of religion and Ethics.
- Component 2: Study of religion and Dialogues
- All exam based, each 3 hours long (it's not as bad as it sounds I promise)
- You are tested on: your knowledge and understanding of a topic **and** how well you can evaluate/compare it to other theories.

# Humanity has no moral responsibility for its actions.'

## Evaluate this claim.

### [15 marks]

Where do  
you stand?

All our actions are already decided, we are just following a path. Therefore we cannot be responsible for things we cannot control

Nobody makes our choices for us. Despite our environment/influences/genetics, we still make the decision. Given this, we should be held responsible.

Examine how faith in God may be challenged by natural and moral evil.

[10 marks]

Where do  
you stand?

There is too much pain and suffering in the world, for there to be a loving God.

We cannot understand God's plan for the universe therefore we cannot question his plan. It could be a test/punishment.

Any Questions 😊?