



# Ethics: Theme 2 A-C

## Aquinas' Natural Law



### AO1 Content:

#### A: Aquinas' Natural Law: Laws and Precepts

*Including: The four levels of law, Primary precepts and secondary precepts based on these primary precepts*

#### B: Aquinas' Natural Law: Virtues and Goods

*Including: The 3 revealed virtues the 4 cardinal virtues, internal and external acts and real and apparent goods*

#### C: The Application of Aquinas' Natural Law to Abortion and Voluntary Euthanasia

*Including: The main issues surrounding these two ethical issues and how Aquinas' Natural Law can be applied to them.*

### AO2 Issues to Consider, Analyse and Evaluate:

#### A: Aquinas' Natural Law: Laws and Precepts

*How far should human law be influenced by Natural Law?*

*How far can an absolutist/ deontological theory work in modern contemporary society?*

#### B: Aquinas' Natural Law: Virtues and Goods

*Does Natural law promote justice? What are the strengths and weaknesses of Natural Law?*

#### C: The Application of Aquinas' Natural Law to Abortion and Voluntary Euthanasia

*Is Natural Law effective at dealing with ethical issues? How far is Natural Law meaningless without God?*



# A: Laws & Precepts

## AO1 Content to learn:

- *The background to Natural Law*
- *the 4 levels of law*
- *Natural Law as a form of moral absolutism with deontological and teleological aspects*
- *The 5 primary precepts*
- *The secondary precepts*

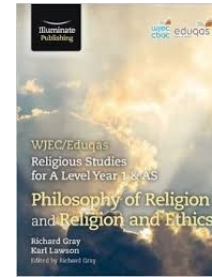
## AO2 Issues to consider, analyse and evaluate:

- *To what extent is the absolutist, deontological nature of Natural Law appropriate in contemporary society?*
- *How far should human law be based on Natural Law?*

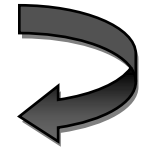
**Below are examples of sample exam questions. As you go through the Info booklet and workbook you should be able to link**

Exam Question	Workbook Link (give p. Number)	Info Book Link (give p. number)	Recommended Extra Reading
Examine Aquinas' Natural Law. (20 marks AO1)			<b>Handouts:</b> Vardy, Peter & Grosch, Paul. <i>Puzzle of Ethics</i>
Examine the religious basis for Natural Law (20 marks AO1)			<b>Books:</b> Thompson, Mel. <i>Teach Yourself the Philosophy of Religion</i> , p.225-6
'Natural Law's deontological nature makes it irrelevant in contemporary society.' Evaluate this view. (30 marks AO2)			Wogama, J.P. <i>Christian Ethics</i> , p. 82-95 Cole, P & Gray, R. <i>My Revision Notes: Religion and Ethics and PoR</i> , p. 51-60
"Natural Law is should not be used to influence human law" Evalaute this claim (30 marks AO2)			Bowie, R & Frye, J. <i>AQA Religious Studies: Ethics</i> , p. 61-73

# Abortion Key Terms



**Flipped Learning**



*HW: Read pp.159 & 161 and fill in the boxes*

**Abortion =**

Key Word	Definition
Blastocyst	
Embryo	
Foetus	
Medical Abortion	
Surgical Abortion	
Zygote	
Quickening	

Key Word	Definition
Birth	
Potential	
Consciousness	
Pro-life	
Pro-choice	
Relational factors	
Sanctity of life	
Viability	

# Euthanasia Key Terms



**Flipped Learning**



*HW: Read pp.164-66 and fill in the boxes*



**Euthanasia (p.164) =**

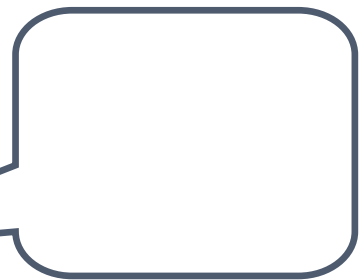
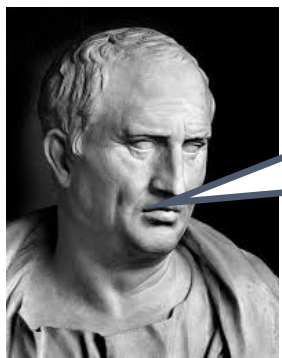
Key Word	Definition
Euthanasia	
Voluntary euthanasia	
Active euthanasia	
Suicide Act 1961	
Euthanasia by refusing treatment	
Euthanasia by dangerous doses of pain relief	
Euthanasia by medication	

# History of Natural Law

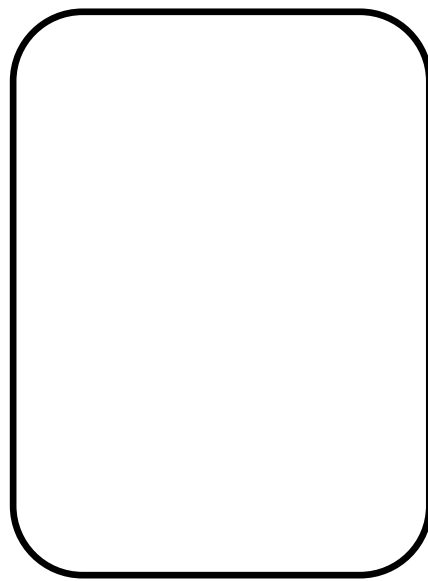
How many of the QQT facts can you remember?



Aquinas



Cicero



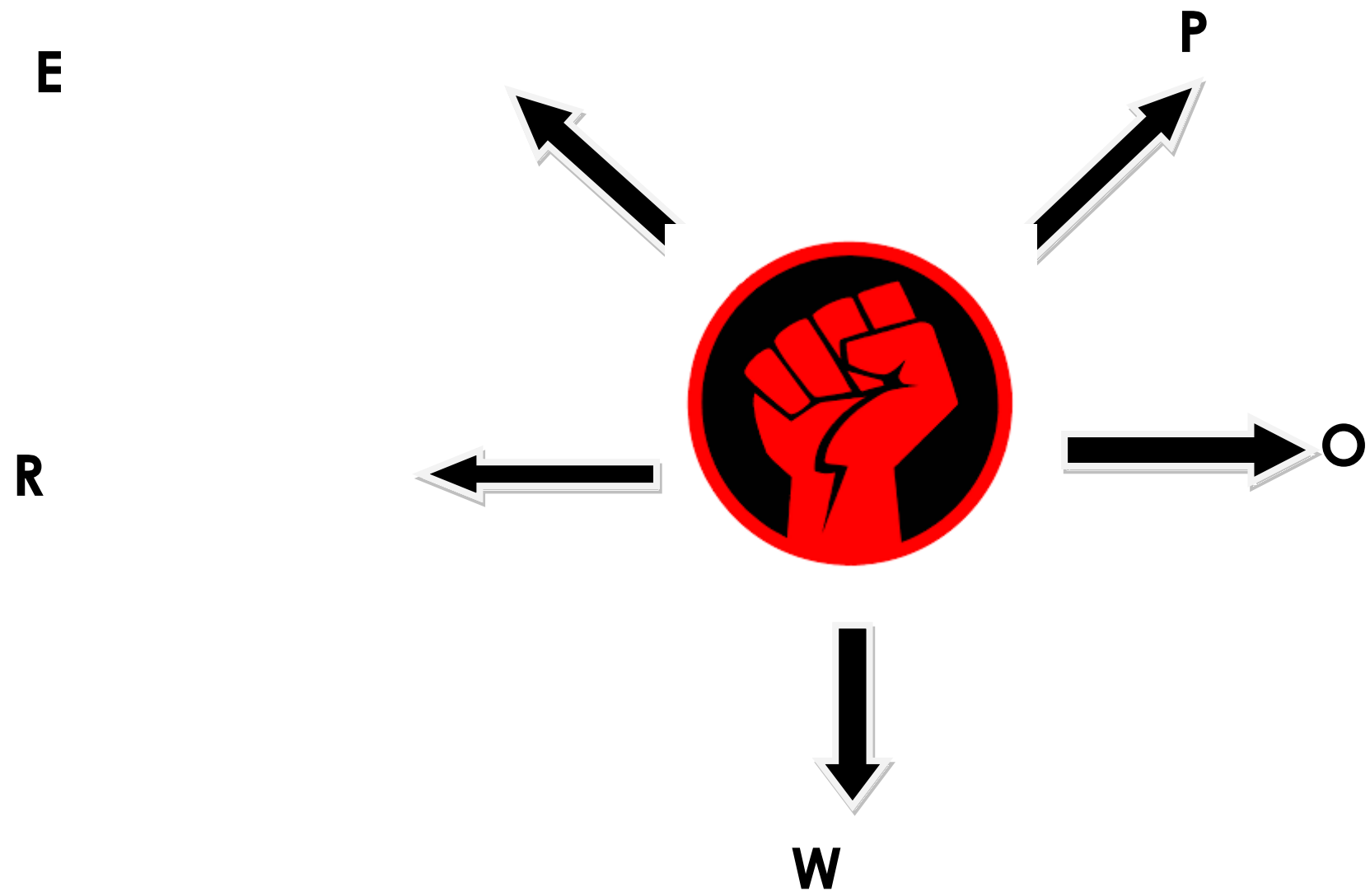
*Aristotle Forever*


# The 4 Levels of Law

Natural Law as a absolutist deontological theory with some teleological elements




# 5 Primary Precepts



# The Secondary Precepts



Based on your knowledge of the 5 primary precepts do you think Abortion and Voluntary Euthanasia would be allowed according to Natural law?

Which of the five primary precepts are being broken by our two ethical issues?

Primary Precept	Secondary Precepts (make up at least 2 rules for each of the 5 primary precepts)
Preserve innocent life	
Live in a ordered society	
Worship God	
Educate Children	
Reproduce	



# A02: Should NL Influence Human Law?

Draw lines to link any arguments with their counter arguments



**Flipped Learning**  
Read p. 145 & 146  
to fill in next 2  
pages



**Yes it should**

**No it should not**

Overall View-

Draw lines to link any arguments with their counter arguments

The absolutist and deontological nature of NL does NOT work in modern society

The absolutist and deontological nature of NL DOES work in modern society

Overall View-

# How to ACE an A02 Response

## For full marks (25-30 marks ) you have to show the following:

- ❑ Confident critical analysis and perceptive evaluation of the issue.
- ❑ A response that successfully identifies and thoroughly addresses the issues raised by the question set.
- ❑ Thorough, sustained and clear views are given, supported by extensive, detailed reasoning and/or evidence.
- ❑ The views of scholars/schools of thought are used extensively, appropriately and in context.
- ❑ Confident and perceptive analysis of the nature of connections between the various elements of the approaches studied.
- ❑ Thorough and accurate use of specialist language and vocabulary in context

The examiner wants to see you including arguments FOR and AGAINST but not in the style of a 'shopping list' like you might have used at GCSE.

You cannot simply list some arguments for and some arguments against. There has to be a sustained ARGUMENT throughout.

## The Conclusion:

To keep your argument sustained and focused you have to know where you are going– if you don't know where you are going you'll get lost.

Your conclusion is where your argument is heading– in other words it's where you are going. You need to know what you are going to conclude before you 'set off' on your answer.

So always decide what you are going to conclude first so you can argue accordingly. It may help to start by stating what you intend to conclude:

All AO2 questions give a statement then ask you to evaluate. So your conclusion will be that the statement is true, false, true to an extent etc.

*"It is the contention of this essay that the statement is true."*

*"In this essay I will suggest that the statement is to a large extent false"*



# How to ACE an A02 Response



**Argument (with Analysis)**



**Counter Argument (with Critical Analysis)**



**Evaluate**

## Analytic Sentence Stems

- This assumes...
- It is clear, therefore, that...
- The suggestion here is that...
- Use of the word \_\_\_\_\_ conveys...
- This demonstrates
- This emphasises the fact that
- This proves
- This indicates
- This describes how
- This explains how
- This persuades us to
- This justifies

## Evaluative Sentence

- This argument is successful because...
- The counter argument is the strongest of the two since...
- This is a valuable point because...
- The latter argument can be further supported by the quote...
- However, this counter argument is unsuccessful because...
- The counter argument is convincing since it...
- The counter argument is successful in refuting the argument as it...

- In your answer you need to choose about **3** of these (or come up with 3 of your own).
- Choose arguments you really understand as this will make analysis and evaluation easier.
- For each of your 3 arguments you will need to respond with a **related** counter argument.
- When you present your **Argument** make sure you analyse it, mention any scholars who have supported this view and add a relevant Qur'anic quote or hadith or teaching.
- Next present the related **Counter Argument**, critically analyse it, mention any scholars who have forwarded this view and add a relevant quote, hadith, teaching etc.
- Finally **Evaluate**, the argument and counter argument saying which position you agree with and why.
- Remember for a **SUSTAINED argument** you will need to argue in favour of your conclusion throughout, unless your conclusion is a more neutral 'partly true' then you will have more flexibility to agree with some FOR arguments and some AGAINST arguments.

# Optional Practice Question A01

Explain how Natural Law is different from the other laws identified within Aquinas' four levels of law. (20 marks AO1)

## Some ideas for you:

- Aquinas' development of Natural Law saw him state there were four types of deontological rules, called the 'four levels of law': eternal, divine, natural and human.
- According to Aquinas, Natural Law is a reflection of God's deontological eternal law. This reflection of God's eternal law is revealed through our God given innate human reason. By using our God given innate reason we can rightly reason/recta ratio a reflection of God's eternal law.
- Natural Law is different to Eternal Law because eternal laws are the laws God created, set and governs that control the whole universe, e.g. including all the deontological moral laws. However, only God can fully know these deontological eternal laws, unlike the natural laws, because humans do not have the capacity to hold all this knowledge. Humans can only partially know God's deontological eternal laws. Aquinas called this a 'reflection' of God's deontological eternal laws.
- Natural Law is different to Divine Law despite the fact they are both reflections of God's deontological Eternal Laws. This is because Divine Laws are revealed through scriptures and not innate human reason. We can study scripture and see some of God's deontological Eternal Laws. Aquinas argued not everyone will have the opportunity to understand God's deontological laws, as stated in scripture. A second reflection of God's eternal law can be seen in the rationally based Natural Law.
- Natural Law is different to Human Law. Human Law is the deontological rules we live by in our daily lives i.e. the rules created by governments. Aquinas believed that Human Law should be completely influenced by the deontological reflections of God's Eternal law we gain from studying Divine Law and/or reasoning Natural Law. Human Law is just the laws of Natural Law that are reflected within the established rules of society. Aquinas argued that a Human Law which is not influenced by Natural and/or Divine Law is no law at all and does not need to be followed.

# B: Virtues & Goods

## AO1 Content to learn:

- *The 3 revealed virtues*
- *The 4 cardinal goods*
- *Internal and external acts*
- *Real and apparent goods*

## AO2 Issues to consider, analyse and evaluate:

- *What are the strengths and weaknesses of Natural Law?*
- *Does Natural Law promote injustice?*

**Below are examples of sample exam questions. As you go through the Info booklet and workbook you should be able to link content with the questions.**

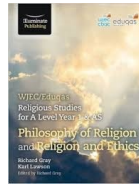
Exam Question	Workbook Link (give p. Number)	Info Book Link (give p. number)	Recommended Extra Reading
Examine the difference between real and apparent goods. (20 marks AO1)			<b>Handouts:</b> Vardy, Peter & Grosch, Paul. <i>Puzzle of Ethics</i> Hoose, B. Natural Law; Situation Ethics Is there another way forward (Higher Challenge)
Examine the different kinds of virtues. (20 marks AO1)			
"The strengths of Natural Law clearly illustrate that it is a good ethical theory" Evaluate this view (30 marks AO2)			<b>Books:</b> Thompson, Mel. <i>Teach Yourself the Philosophy of Religion</i> , p.225-6 Wogama, J.P. <i>Christian Ethics</i> , p. 82-95 Cole, P & Gray, R. <i>My Revision Notes: Religion and Ethics and PoR</i> , p. 51-60 Bowie, R & Frye, J. <i>AQA Religious Studies: Ethics</i> , p. 61-73
"Natural Law promotes injustice" Evaluate this view (30 marks AO2)			








# Internal & External Acts




Use pages 150-151 to find the answers

What is an internal act?

What is an external act?


 Topic Link: What is Niyah? Where is the link here?

The Four Conditions for an action to be morally permissible:	
1	
2	
3	
4	



**Doctrine of Double Effect**

E.g. of Double Effect in Action



# Strengths & Weaknesses of NL

Strengths

Weaknesses

Overall View– More strengths or more weaknesses?

# Does NL promote injustice?

**YES**

**NO**

Overall View– More strengths or more weaknesses?

# C: Application of the Natural Law

## AO1 Content to learn:

- *The issues arising from abortion*
- *The issues arising from voluntary euthanasia*
- *Natural Law applied to abortion*
- *Natural law applied to voluntary euthanasia*

## AO2 Issues to consider, analyse and evaluate:

- *Is Natural Law effective at dealing with ethical issues?*
- *Is Natural Law meaningless without belief in God?*

**Below are examples of sample exam questions. As you go through the Info booklet and workbook you should be able to link content with the questions.**

Exam Question	Workbook Link (give p. Number)	Info Book Link (give p. number)	Recommended Extra Reading
<b>Apply Aquinas' Natural Law to the ethical issue of abortion (20 marks AO1)</b>			<b>Handouts:</b> Cook, D. <i>The Moral Maze</i> , p.122-127 (Abortion) Cook, D. <i>The Moral Maze</i> , p. 160-169 (Euthanasia)
<b>Apply Aquinas' Natural Law to the ethical issue of voluntary euthanasia. (20 marks AO1)</b>			<i>Moral Problems, Discussion: The Right to Life</i> (Abortion & Euthanasia) <i>Abortion– A Topical Debate</i> (For laws on Abortion)
<b>"Natural Law is meaningless for those who do not believe in God". Evaluate this view.(30 marks AO2)</b>			<b>Books:</b> Cole, P & Gray, R. <i>My Revision Notes: Religion and Ethics and PoR</i> , p. 36-43
<b>"Natural Law can be effectively applied to ethical issues" Evaluate this view. ( 30 marks AO2)</b>			Bowie, R & Frye, J. <i>AQA Religious Studies: Ethics</i> , p. 96-117 (Abortion) p. 118-141 (Euthanasia) Singer, P. <i>Practical Ethics</i> , p.135-74 (Abortion), p.175-217 (Euthanasia)

# Applied: Abortion

As the class presents their information fill in the relevant sections



**Methods of  
Abortion**

**When does  
life begin?**

# Applied: Abortion



**Abortion &  
the Law**

**Sanctity of  
Life**



# Applied: Abortion



Problems with terminology





# Applied: Euthanasia



## Definitions of Euthanasia

When does life end?



# Applied: Euthanasia



Quality vs  
Sanctity of life

Arguments against  
Euthanasia

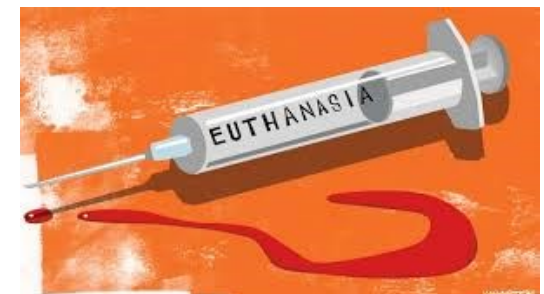
Death with  
dignity is better  
than life of  
humiliation

Imam Hussain

# Applied: Euthanasia



## Euthanasia and the Law



# NL Applied to Abortion

Create a flow chart to show how Natural Law is applied to abortion

# NL Applied to Abortion

**The Underage Girl**

**A Student Party**

**The Irish Couple**

# NL Applied to Euthanasia

For each scenario– what do you think?  
After applying NL what would NL  
theory say? (precepts, virtues, acts and  
goods)

**Simon:** I think.....

**Tine:** I think.....

**Will:** I think.....

**Marieke:** I think.....

# Natural Law Casuistry

Read the case about Kathleen and imagine her husband and nurse had given her a lethal dose of morphine as part of her pain relief control.

**Precepts**

**Goods & Acts**

**Virtues**

**Doctrine of Double Effect**

# A02: Is NL effective when applied to ethical issues?

Draw lines to link any arguments with their counter arguments

Flipped Learning



*HW: Read pp.169 and fill in the boxes*

Yes it is

No it isn't

Overall View– Is it effective?



**Flipped Learning**

*HW: Read pp. 170-1 of  
info book and fill in the  
chart*



# Is NL meaningless without God?

Yes it is meaningless	No it isn't meaningless

“ Natural Law is not effective in dealing with ethical issues” Evaluate this view.

AO2 30 marks

A

[Dashed box for argument]

ExD/ EG

C

[Dashed box for counter-argument]

ExD/ EG

E

[Dashed box for evaluation]

QL

A

[Dashed box for argument]

ExD/ EG

C

[Dashed box for counter-argument]

ExD/ EG

E

[Dashed box for evaluation]

QL

A

[Dashed box for argument]

ExD/ EG

C

[Dashed box for counter-argument]

ExD/ EG

E

[Dashed box for evaluation]

QL

CONC

# Quotes, Examples, Disagreements and Scholars

As you go along the course, use this page to record any relevant quotes, examples, diversity or opinion or disagreements and scholars views.

You might have noticed that to get TOP GRADES you need to be able to discuss scholars ideas, diversity of opinion and give quotes and egs.

Topic	Quote?	Examples?	Disagreements?	Scholar View?
History of NL				
4 Laws				
5 Precepts				
Secondary Precepts				
3 Revealed Virtues				
4 Cardinal Virtues				
Internal act				

Topic	Quote?	Examples?	Disagreements?	Scholar View?
External act				
Real goods				
Apparent goods				
Doctrine of Double Effect				
Casuistry				
AO2: Is NL suitable in modern society?				
AO2: Should NI influence human law?				
AO2: Does NL Promote injustice?				
AO2: What are the strengths and weaknesses of NL?				
AO2: Is NI effective when applied?				
AO2: Is NL Meaningless without God?				

Topic	Quote?	Examples?	Disagreements?	Scholar View?
Abortion				
Voluntary Euthanasia				

Spare page for notes, doodles, whatever. Use this to record any questions you have in general, or when reading, that you would like to ask me!