

Topics Covered	
<b>A: Laws and Precepts</b>	1. Aquinas' 4 levels of law 2. Natural Law as a form of moral absolutism which has both deontological and teleological aspects 3. The 5 primary precepts 4. The secondary precepts 5. The importance of keeping the precepts
<b>B: Virtues and Goods</b>	1. The 3 revealed Virtues 2. The 4 Cardinal Virtues 3. Internal and External acts 4. Real and apparent goods
<b>C: Application of Natural Law</b>	1. Issues arising from Abortion 2. Application of Natural Law to Abortion 3. Issues arising from Voluntary Euthanasia 4. Application of Natural Law to Voluntary Euthanasia

Scholars		
Philosophers	Commentators	
19. Aquinas	20. Kainz	21. Singer
22. Aristotle	23. Mason & Laurie	24. Campos
25. Cicero	26. Hope	27. Mackie

**NATURAL LAW**

*Ethics T2 A-C Knowledge organizer*

Issues for Evaluation	
13.	How far should Natural Law influence Human Law?
14.	To what extent does the deontological/absolutist nature of Natural Law work in contemporary society?
15.	What are the strengths and weaknesses of Natural Law?
16.	Does Natural Law promote injustice?
17.	How effective is Natural Law in dealing with ethical issues?
18.	To what extent is Natural Law meaningless without God?

KEY WORDS	
<b>28. Casuistry</b> —Applying key principles to an ethical case	<b>42. Interior/Exterior acts</b> - The intention/ outward visible act
<b>29. Agape</b> -Pure, unconditional love	<b>43. Justice</b> - Fairness to others
<b>30. Temperance</b> - Balance and restraint	<b>44. Medical abortion</b> - By means of a pill
<b>31. Blastocyst</b> - Group of multiplying cells	<b>45. Primary precepts</b> -POWER—5 principles
<b>32. Cardinal Virtues</b> -Justice, courage, temperance and prudence	<b>46. Beatific Vision</b> -Perfect happiness through union with God
<b>33. Abortion</b> —Termination of pregnancy	<b>47. Quickening</b> - When the baby first moves
<b>34. Viability</b> - When foetus can exist independent of mother	<b>48. Real/Apparent goods</b> - Good that takes us closer to God/Sin that takes us away from God
<b>35. Courage</b> —physical, moral or spiritual endurance	<b>49. Relational Factors</b> -Different interpretations of the same words
<b>36. Embryo</b> -First 3 months after conception	<b>50. Revealed Virtues</b> - Hope, faith and agape
<b>37. Ensoulment</b> -When soul enters body	<b>51. Secondary Precepts</b> Rules resulting from 5 precepts
<b>38. Euthanasia</b> -Good death	<b>52. Foetus</b> - 8 week to birth
<b>39. Faith</b> - Belief without proof	<b>53. Prudence</b> - Sound judgment
<b>40. Surgical abortion</b> -By means of suction	<b>54. Consciousness</b> -Awareness of self
<b>41. Fortitude</b> -Another word for courage	<b>55. Zygote</b> —a cell formed from sperm and ovum uniting

**Key:**

Relating to Natural Law in general      Relating to Abortion

Relating to Euthanasia

Relating to both abortion and euthanasia

**Key Quotes**

<div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>56. Natural Law is the same for all</p> </div>	<div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>57. True law is right reason in agreement with nature; it is of universal application-</p> </div>	<div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>58. [abortion] is against the precept of God and the law of nature: "Thou shall not kill"- <b>Pope Pius XI</b></p> </div>
---	--	--

How far should Natural Law influence Human Law?	
59. Many ideas are the same anyway	63. Not everyone is Christian so not applicable to multi-faith/ secular society
60. Natural Law is based on reason so everyone should agree with it	64. The absolutist nature make it too rigid for human law
61. Living in an orderly society is the aim for human law	65. lots of legal things in UK law are forbidden in NL
62. A set fixed law makes human law easy to apply	66. Some aspects could be adopted but not all aspects
To what extent does the deontological/ absolutist nature of Natural Law work in contemporary society?	
67. NL provides clear set rules so easy and straightforward	71. Some think teleological is more flexible and kinder
68. The vast myriad of things seen as acceptable today just shows that we need NL more than ever.	72. Love should dictate our decision so situation ethics would be a better theory
69. The RC Church have and still do use it successfully	73. Many rules seem outdated and intolerant
70. Who wouldn't want to be virtuous and live in an orderly society?	74. It does not allow for personal autonomy when deciding what is right and wrong.
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Natural Law?	
75. It assumes the special status of humans and acts in line with human nature which makes sense	81. There is dispute over what is natural– is being gay natural for instance?
76. It is universal and so applicable to all	82. It is too generic and so doesn't take into account individual situations
77. It is clear cut and easy to follow	83. It can be too rigid and lead to unloving actions
78. Most of the precepts are common sense and agreed upon by all	84. Some rules are outdated and seem intolerant
79. It could work without God and so appeals to believers and atheists alike	85. One precept is worship God making it unappealing to atheists
80. It is based on doing good and avoiding evil	86. Other consequentialist theories seem better equipped to bring about good.

Does Natural Law promote injustice?	
87. Some precepts could lead to homophobia	91. If one follows the virtues then no injustice should be done as agape would override certain rules
88. Some rules could lead to women being forced to stay in violent marriages	92. It does not promote it as it aims to <i>do good and avoid evil</i> but could in practice lead to injustice
89. Some precepts could force rape victims to carry on with unwanted pregnancies	93. The whole point is to stop injustice, protect innocent life, stop theft etc
90. Some precepts could lead to atheists being discriminated against	94. When applied carefully using reasoning, virtues and doctrine of double effect then it would not promote injustice.
How effective is Natural Law in dealing with ethical issues ?	
95. Five simple precepts to remember– easy to apply	99. It is too outdated to be used for modern ethical issues
96. It uses reason alone so does not allow emotion to cloud judgement	100. It can quickly become quite complicated applying double effect, virtues, real and apparent goods etc
97. Due to it's link with religion, believers can be confident they are acting inline with God	101. For those who are not religious it seems strange to go against your conscience and desires for someone else's God
98. NL does have some flexibility as well like casuistry and double effect	102. Kainz points out sometimes the precepts can conflict with each other
To what extent is Natural Law meaningless without God?	
103. One of precepts is worship God	107. Aristotle's original version did not have the GOCT in mind
104. It is the main RC Ethical theory and was devised based on Biblical teachings	108. Finnis has done a modern day version of NL that does not require a God
105. If we reject the idea we have a God given natural purpose why would we care whether we acted in line with what is supposedly natural?	109. We can work out what to do in NL according to reason alone– we do not need to appeal to religious teachings
106. Aristotle's version still had a concept of a God	