

# Kant's critique of utilitarianism and a maxim assignment

[Art & Culture](#)



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Since we are sensuous creatures, we experience the moral law as a constraint. We have a tendency to do otherwise because we may come across moral dilemmas. Sometimes we know we should do something but we might reason against it. Kant believed that by putting something through the CLC procedure we would be able to see if it was moral or immoral. There are four steps in this procedure. First you formulate your subjective maxim. Let us use the example that: I will cheat on my philosophy test because I didn't have enough time to study.

The next step is to generalize this maxim, so for every time I don't have enough time to study I will cheat on my philosophy test. Then you universalize this maxim as if it were an instinct: everyone will cheat on their philosophy test every time they don't have enough time to study. You then take this new law and join it with the old law and compare its effects. Now that I have put it through these four steps it is a given that people will cheat on their philosophy test every time they don't have enough time to study.

This will take away the value of a good grade that a person that studies may receive. You then ask yourself two questions: Can I coherently conceive of such a world? And if so, can I sincerely will such a world? If at the end of all this, the maxim drops out and passes all these tests then it is okay to act on it because it is morally permissible. As seen in my example, it is not moral to cheat on a test because if everyone did it then it would devalue the good grades that people get that put work and effort into studying for the test.

Kant claims that acting from the categorical imperative "reveals to us our freedom and dignity", by this he means that Dignity brings about your

morality which is what makes you part of the Kingdom of ends. It frees us from our senses by making us realize our own nature. The Categorical Imperative reveals what is moral and immoral and therefore we are able to distinguish the two and this allows us to be autonomous and if you are autonomous then you are free.