

# Ethical theories chart

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Ethical Theories Chart s: of ethical perspective Consequentialism Deontology  
Virtue Theory Exemplar Utilitarianism Kantian Ethics

Aristotles moral theory

Founder

Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill

Immanuel Kant and W. D Ross

Aristotle

Major Principle

The moral status of an action relies on the consequences of the action. The morally right thing to do in any circumstance is whatever will have the best outcome; for instance, if it brings most of the people delight or happiness (Rainbow, 2002).

They stick to the principle according to which whatever matters regarding whether an action is correct or wrong is the answer why it has been done as fulfilling our duty is what really matters.

The theory holds that we possess the intrinsic duty to do things which are intrinsically good; the outcomes of what one does is significant, although an individual is obligated to always take the correct action even if it results in the wrong outcomes (Rainbow, 2002).

It judges an individual by his/her behavior instead of action, which may deviate from his/her normal conduct. It accounts for the person's reputation, motivation, and morals when rating an uncommon and uneven behavior, which is considered unethical. The most significant thing is if the actor is displaying good character (Rainbow, 2002).

Criticism

It fails to offer direction in what a person should do because there no

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difference between effects, which are predicted and the intended ones (Rainbow, 2002).

Deontologists refute what eventually matters is the consequences of an action.

The theory fails to consider an individual's change in moral behavior.

#### Reference

Rainbow, C. (2002). Descriptions of ethical theories and principles. Retrieved from [http://www. bio. davidson. edu/people/kabernd/indep/carainbow/Theories. htm](http://www.bio.davidson.edu/people/kabernd/indep/carainbow/Theories.htm)