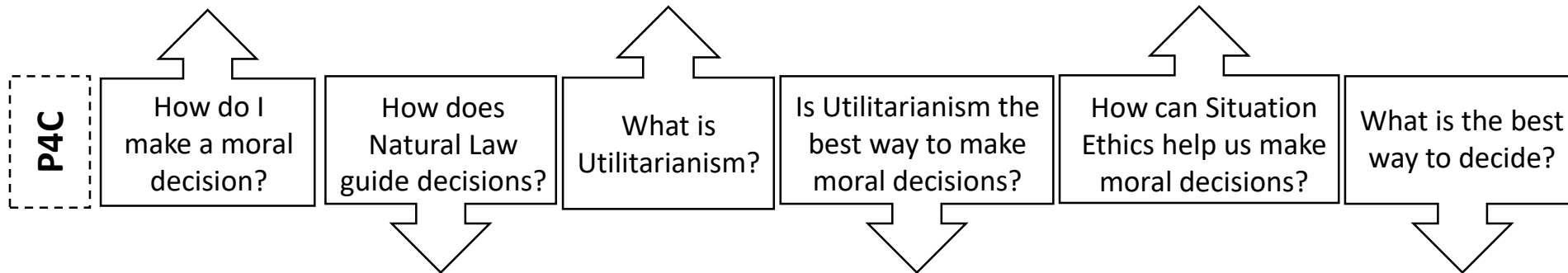
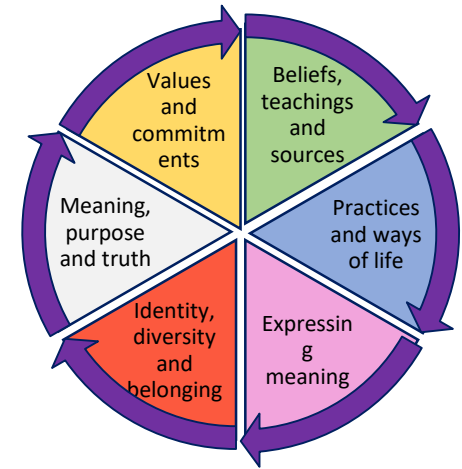


Yr9

The Big Picture

How do we make moral decisions?

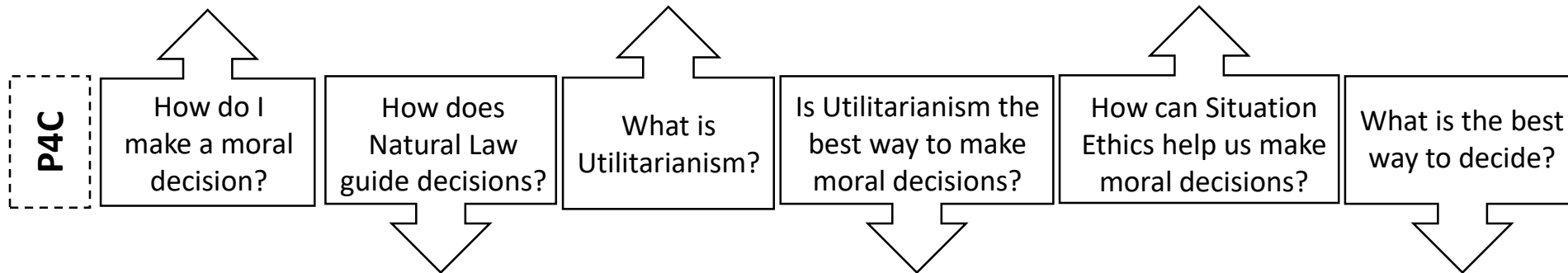
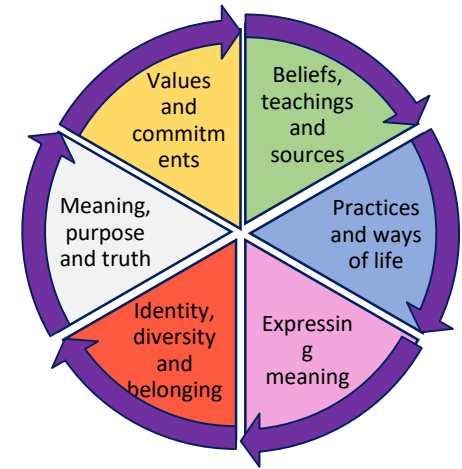


Vocabulary: Morality, God, Natural Law, eudaimonia, Jeremy Bentham, JS Mill, ethics, Act Utilitarianism, Rule Utilitarianism, Joseph Fletcher, Situation Ethics

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Vocabulary: Morality, God, Natural Law, eudaimonia, Jeremy Bentham, JS Mill, ethics, Act Utilitarianism, Rule Utilitarianism, Joseph Fletcher, Situation Ethics

Morality – Our sense of what is right and wrong.

Ethics – The way in which we determine what is considered right and wrong.

Knowledge Organiser: How do we make moral decisions?

What did Jeremy Bentham believe?

ACT UTILITARIANISM

- **Consequence of action** is most important,
- Always maximise the **greatest amount of happiness** for the greatest number of people,
- Always aim to reduce and **minimise pain**,
- Sometimes we must **break rules** to ensure the maximum amount of happiness for the greatest number of people is achieved.



What did John Stuart Mill believe?

RULE UTILITARIANISM

- **Follow general rules** in order to determine best outcome for the greatest number,
- Sometimes we need to consider the **individual action** rather than the consequence alone,
- Always consider how to **avoid harm**: the Harm Principle,
- There are 'higher' and 'lower' pleasures.



What is Utilitarianism? A method of making decisions based on the idea of the '*greatest amount of happiness for the greatest amount of people*'.

What is Natural Law? A method of making decisions based on laws reasoned from Christian scripture, in order to reach *eudaimonia* (human flourishing).

What is Situation Ethics? A method of making decisions based on love as is the ultimate motivation and outcome of every action. It is heavily based on Jesus's teaching to '*Love thy neighbour*'.

What is Natural Law?

This ethical theory started with Aristotle and suggested humans possess an **in-built sense of right and wrong** to tell us how to behave. Humans should: 'Do good and avoid evil.' to reach *eudaimonia*.

St. Thomas Aquinas- a Catholic scholar- later developed the idea that natural law is passed to humans via a divine presence, eg. God!

AQUINAS'S Primary Precepts:

- Worship God
- Order society to live within
- Reproduce
- Learn or educate
- Defend the innocent

From these, Christians should be able to work out what to do and not to do.

What is Situation Ethics?

Situation ethics is a **Christian theory**, from American pastor and academic, Joseph Fletcher; it follows the Biblical teachings to love one another.

It helps Christians make the right decisions by placing **LOVE at the centre of everything**. Fletcher believed that in doing this a Christian would be **pleasing God** and making the most moral decision.

"Love thy neighbour."

Situation Ethics:
Joseph Fletcher argued that Christians should base decisions on doing the most loving thing in any given situation.



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