



Mill's Utilitarianism

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The Greatest Happiness Principle

- “Actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness, wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness. By happiness is intended pleasure, and the absence of pain; by unhappiness, pain, and the privation of pleasure.”



The Three Clauses

- U1: Consequentialism
 - Acts are judged by their consequences.
- U2: Hedonism
 - Consequences are evaluated by the total amount of happiness they bring.
- U3: Egalitarianism
 - Everyone's happiness is valued equally.

U1: Consequentialism

- Actions are judged by outcome not intent.
- Measured in terms of utility.
- Whatever choice maximizes the social utility should be chosen.
- Monopoly!



U2: Hedonism

- Utility is a measure of happiness.
- Criticism of hedonism is that it reduces human existence to the pursuit of pleasure like an animal.





Mill's Musings on Pleasure

- By pleasure, Mill does not mean mere sensual pleasure.
- Faculty thresholds and happiness vs. contentment.
- Gradations of pleasure are determined by the preferences of the knowledgeable or the majority.
- There are higher and lower pleasures.
- It is the duty of society to guide people towards these higher pleasures.



U3: Egalitarianism

- All people's happiness is valued equally.
- Not much else to say about this.
- Except for a specific case.



Why Utilitarianism is the correct morality

- People desire happiness.
- Utilitarianism says that we should increase happiness.
- Therefore, Utilitarianism is the correct morality.

Problems with and Criticisms of Utilitarianism

- Uncertainty and the future.
- Example of the mob.
- In conclusion, do you think that utilitarianism is the correct ethical theory?

