

Medical Ethics: “How do we determine the right and wrong thing to do within science and medicine?”

Key terms	Definitions
Morality	Our sense of right and wrong.
Absolute Morality	An action is always right or always wrong.
Relative Morality	An action is sometimes right and sometimes wrong.
Medical Ethics	Determining what is right and wrong when we consider our health, medicine and medical science.
Sanctity of Life	The idea that life is sacred and God-given.
Organ Transplantation	Organs are taken after death and given to someone else in order to save their life.
Fertility Treatment	This is where scientists help an infertile couple have a baby using certain procedures.
AID	Artificial Insemination by donor - sperm is taken from a donor
Artificial insemination	Artificial Insemination by Husband - sperm is taken from the husband
IVF	In Vitro Fertilisation - sperm and egg fertilised in a test tube
Human Experimentation	Experiments are carried out on humans for things such as medicines and psychology.
Designer Baby	A baby where the characteristics are designed by the parents
Saviour Sibling	Where a baby is created so that stem cells or organs can be used to save another sibling.

Key questions:

How do we decide something is right and wrong?
 Is organ transplantation ethical?
 Is it acceptable to experiment on humans?

Key points to understand:

Ethics is all to do with how we figure out whether things are right and wrong.

There are two types of morality: absolute (an action is always right or wrong) and relative (an action is sometimes right or wrong).

There are no correct answers in ethics, only justified opinions.

Medical ethics is concerned with how we use technology and advances in science to better ourselves and whether this is correct or not.

A key religious belief concerned with medical ethics is the idea that life is God-given and is therefore sacred. This is better known as Sanctity of Life.

It is important when discussing ethics to have an open-mind and be able to offer arguments for and against the action being done.