

(b) Analyse the reasons why Virtue Ethics may be considered the most persuasive of ethical theories.

(20)

Virtue Ethics may be the most persuasive of the ethical theories as it centres around the person's actions and attempts to reach the good life through both moral and practical virtues, virtues shape who individuals are and in practicing the correct virtues we can reach the good life.

Aristotle makes effort to differentiate between 'pleasure' and 'good'. We may assume we can reach the good life through pleasure, when pleasures can be good, like helping an elderly woman cross the street, however human beings can also gain pleasure through bad pleasures such as the thrill of stealing from a shop.

This displays that 'goodness' and 'pleasure' are separate ideas. This idea is evident in the quotation, 'describe virtue as a state of character but also, say what sort of state it is.' (e.g. good or bad pleasure). Only good pleasures can help us reach the good life.

We have practical and moral ~~virtues~~ virtues, practical are the things we are capable of

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doing like helping others, which leads us to become a virtuous and good person and moral virtues are our ~~best~~ idea of what is good and just, developed through experience, 'the man of practical wisdom' demonstrates the emphasis Aristotle places on both practical and moral virtues.

Aristotle refers to the 'Golden mean', which places emphasis on balance, found through reason and 'telos' (purpose). Finding the correct balance leads us to the correct function and the good life. 'Passions and actions' form the groundwork of this balance if we obtain the correct balance between our own actions and passions we can reach the good life.

The Epistemic Distance seems to be an issue with Aristotle's Virtue ethics as Aristotle states if we use our reason and obtain the correct balance between our virtues we can reach the good life. But we cannot do this, as there will always be a gap between the omnipotent, omnibenevolent, omniscient



God and humans, perhaps a more suitable approach to ethics would be utilitarianism which looks for the greatest happiness for the greatest number. This approach doesn't aim to close the Gap, making a perfect moral & virtuous being but aims for a lower level of fulfilment from happiness.

Situation ethics also is less of an extreme approach, which simply places a gap at the centre of every moral decision we make, again not striving for a perfect being, but a loving one.

