**The major ethical theories**

* **Virtue ethics** behavioral dispositions, personality traits
* **Deontological ethics**  duties (imposed on oneself and followed voluntarily)
* **Consequentialist ethics** consequences of actions

**1. Virtue ethics \_**

* Virtue ethics stresses the importance of the characteristic traits of a person (honesty, empathy, prudence, gentleness, courage) that are considered important and cultivated throughout life.
* These virtues are promoted because they enable self-realization and the *good life* .
* The development of virtues is the path to true happiness, which is intrinsic good.

Happiness, in this sense, corresponds to a fulfilled life, which is lived rationally and guided by moderation. It involves the realization of human potential in individual and social life, under the guidance of right reason and virtues.

happiness \_

* When we think about what exactly drives our actions, we find that we have different goals that can be compared and ordered; some goals are simply a means to other goals, which in turn are means to other goals…
* All goals can be subordinated to an end goal, in relation to which all others are themselves means: ultimately, everyone seeks true *happiness* . Happiness is the natural goal of human life. Happiness is not seen as opposed to reason, it is its natural purpose.
* The lack of a global perspective on true happiness can send us on the wrong track: we treat the means as if they were the ends, we consider the intermediate objectives as final objectives.

The Cultivation of Virtues

* It is in everyone's interest to pursue happiness. But true happiness cannot be achieved without the development of the cardinal virtues ( *courage, justice, temperance )* , which requires their cultivation throughout life.
* The development of virtues implies a constant effort to integrate them into practice, into what one thinks, decides and does. Practical reasoning consists of selecting the best means to achieve certain ends.

**2. Ethics ethical**

* Ethical theory that affirms that the moral value of human action must be judged according to its conformity (or non-conformity) to certain duties, which are rationally recognized and respected.

It is a question of respecting certain duties which have a moral value in themselves.

* How do we usually go about determining the morality of our actions? Do we take into account our *intentions* ? The *consequences* of our actions? The *standards* we followed? Or does it depend on each case?
* Is it sometimes justified to lie in order to protect others or avoid unnecessary suffering? Or is it always wrong to lie no matter what? For Kant, the foundation of morality is *goodwill* , based on the moral imperatives of practical reason.

An imperative is a duty which is imposed by reason and which must be applied universally. **Immanuel Kant**

**3. Ethics consequentialist**

* The morality of our actions is essentially based on their consequences. Although we recognize that other criteria may be taken into account, the consequences of an action constitute the fundamental criterion for evaluation.
* Can a political ideology be considered fundamentally good, even if it has produced millions of constant deaths and suffering each time it has been put into practice? Can we have theoretically good but practically bad standards?

No, not from the perspective of consequentialism . One cannot have moral actions with constantly negative consequences.

3.1 Pragmatism

* The moral value of a decision or action is based on its practical consequences: an opinion is true if it works out satisfactorily, a decision will be right if the practical consequences of taking it are positive
* In this perspective, the morality of a decision or action is based on their *ability to solve certain problems* .
* Therefore, morality is not a problem of following some abstract criteria, but a problem of efficiency. Pragmatism is a form of consequentialism .

3.2 Utilitarianism

* Ethical doctrine that prescribes to act (or not to act) in such a way as to *maximize the well-being of the greatest number of sentient beings* .
* The moral value of an action is determined solely by its contribution to the general utility, which is given by the totality of its consequences. Utilitarianism is therefore a form of *consequentialism* .
* It is in this particular sense that we can speak of the *calculation of the utility* of an act, or that we can compare the utilities of different actions or decisions.

على صعيد المفاهيم والممارسات يمكن أن نميز بين عدد من الأخلاقيات، م   
**أخلاقيات الفضيلة** : تقوم على أساس القيم المطلقة والنهائي ة التي لا توسط ولا مساومة فيها من حيث الصواب والخطأ (morality) . الصدق، الإخلاص...   
ب **) أخلاقيات الواجب: Deontological Ethics** صحة او خطأ الفعل الأخلاقي نفسه بناء على تطابقه مع قاعدة لنظر عن صحة أو خطأ تبعيات هذا الفعل بمعنى أن لصحة الفعل أولية عن الخي ر الناتج عن الفعل   
مثل ازاحة الانظمة المستبدة ......ومن ثم الحروب...

**ج) مدرسة الأخلاق العواقبية : Consequentialism** وهي نظير أخلاقيات الواجب. مثال: التجسس على الهواتف.