# Humanist ethics: Fill in the blanks activity

Humanists believe the origins of our values and our moral capacities are _____. Human beings are _____ animals that have long lived together in groups. We _____ a natural capacity for empathy, to recognise other people's feelings, and to feel compassion and concern for their suffering. We are not, however, good all the time. We also have other less friendly instincts.

Humanists recognise our many _____ needs and values. We all experience pleasure and pain. We all need love and friendship and want to be treated fairly and with respect. Most of us value kindness, freedom, honesty, and justice. Sometimes our values will come into conflict with each other and there won't be one simple answer to the question of what to do. Humanists will, however, typically reject the idea that morality is all just a matter of personal preference. Our shared needs and values give us the foundations on which we can _____ about moral questions and they can help us to see how some answers are better than others.

For humanists, being good is not about satisfying the wishes of some agent outside of humanity. Many humanists believe we should be good because of the _____ our actions can have on other people, society, and the rest of the natural world. Humanists believe this is the one life we have and so we should promote _____ and reduce suffering. We should aim to make the world a _____ and better place to live for everyone in the here and now.

Rules can be helpful to guide our behaviour, and laws can be good for society. But some rules need flexibility as following them blindly can sometimes lead to harm. Humanists believe we have a _____ to think for ourselves. Many believe we have natural tools available that can help us to do this. We can feel _____ for other people and imagine how they might feel. We can use _____ to think carefully and consider the likely _____ of our actions on other people, animals, and the planet. Humanists believe we should treat other people the way we would like to be treated. This is sometimes called the _____ Rule. A phrase often used by humanists is 'Think for yourself, act for everyone'.

Humanists believe there are other _____ to being good. Making other people happy can also make us happy. And being good can sometimes persuade other people to be good too.

| responsibility | fairer | happiness | natural | empathy | evolved | talk |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| benefits | social | consequences | shared | impact | Golden | reason |

# Humanist ethics: Fill in the blanks activity (answers)

Humanists believe the origins of our values and moral capacities are **natural**. Human beings are **social** animals that have long lived together in groups. We **evolved** a natural capacity for empathy, to recognise other people's feelings, and to feel compassion and concern for their suffering. We are not, however, good all the time. We also have other less friendly instincts.

Humanists recognise our many **shared** needs and values. We all experience pleasure and pain. We all need love and friendship and want to be treated fairly and with respect. Most of us value kindness, freedom, honesty, and justice. Sometimes our values will come into conflict with each other and there won't be one simple answer to the question of what to do. Humanists will, however, typically reject the idea that morality is all just a matter of personal preference. Our shared values give us the foundations on which we can **talk** about moral questions and they can help us to see how some answers are better than others.

For humanists, being good is not about satisfying the wishes of some agent outside of humanity. Many humanists believe we should be good because of the **impact** our actions can have on other people, society, and the rest of the natural world. Humanists believe this is the one life we have and so we should promote **happiness** and reduce suffering. We should aim to make the world a **fairer** and better place to live for everyone in the here and now.

Rules can be helpful to guide our behaviour, and laws can be good for society. But some rules need flexibility as following them blindly can sometimes lead to harm. Humanists believe we have a **responsibility** to think for ourselves. Many believe we have natural tools available that can help us to do this. We can feel **empathy** for other people and imagine how they might feel. We can use **reason** to think carefully and consider the likely **consequences** of our actions on other people, animals, and the planet. Humanists believe we should treat other people the way we would like to be treated. This is sometimes called the **Golden** Rule. A phrase often used by humanists is 'Think for yourself, act for everyone'.

Humanists believe there are other **benefits** to being good. Making other people happy can also make us happy. And being good can sometimes persuade other people to be good too.

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