

HUL 258: Social and Political Philosophy
 1st Semester, 2016-17
 Minor 1

Instructions

Make your answers as clear and precise as possible. Feel free to write your answers in point format, and to use Hindi words or phrases if you need to.

Possibilities

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1. The vegetarian society of IIT Delhi wants to argue, on utilitarian grounds, that non-vegetarian food should be banned on campus. How should this argument proceed? (5 marks, 400 words)

2. Your non-vegetarian friends ask you to counter this argument with a utilitarian argument in favour of keeping non-vegetarian food on campus menus. How should this argument proceed? (5 marks, 400 words)

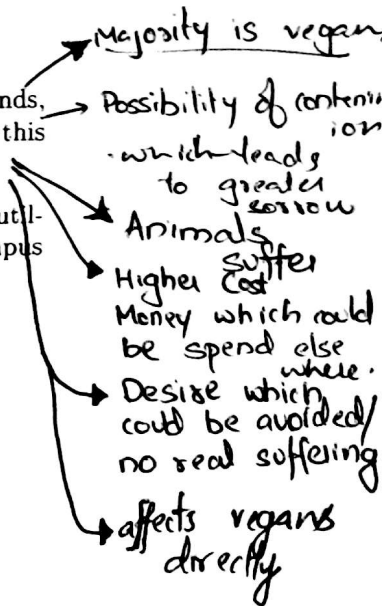
- Majority was vegan
- Animals can be given equal concern but not treated equally
- We can grow Banimals
- Survival of fittest / Food chain model in nature
- Diet affects vegans directly (Orthodox)
- Overall vitamin deficiency
- Denial of right which leads to unhappiness
- Policy Resolved by separate mess canteens

In *Unto This Last: A Paraphrase*, M. K. Gandhi writes:

People in the West generally hold that the whole duty of man is to promote the happiness of the majority of mankind, and happiness is supposed to mean only physical happiness and economic prosperity. If the laws of morality are broken in the conquest of this happiness, it does not matter very much. Again, as the object sought to be attained is the happiness of the majority, Westerners do not think there is any harm if this is secured by sacrificing a minority.

Let us suppose that one of the "laws of morality" Gandhi-ji had in mind is the principle that "One should never bear false witness against an innocent person."

What are the ways in which utilitarians could respond to Gandhiji's criticism? Which of these responses do you find most convincing, and why? (10 marks, 800 words)



- India is a land of diversity but west is almost same at the time utilitarianism was framed. so there was no oppression against minority.