**Moral Reasoning** – The process by which we address moral issues using a philosophical approach with the aim of arriving at correct and justified answers to questions of morality. (A moral position is defended by reasons.)

**Moral Theory** - Philosophers go about providing reasons for their moral positions by appealing to a moral theory, which is way of thinking about the nature of what is right and good and making correct/justified moral decisions.

**Ethics is applied Philosophy.**
**Intrinsic Value** – Something is intrinsically good if its value depends on features that are inherent or within it.

  eg. happiness, love

**Extrinsic Value** – Something is extrinsically good on the basis of how it is related to something else that is intrinsically good.

  eg. money, power

**Right Conduct**

Obligatory Actions – actions we morally ought to do

Optional Actions – actions that are morally neutral

Wrong Actions – actions we ought not do
Aims of Moral Theory – Moral Criteria

Theoretical Aim – to discover the underlying features of actions, persons, and other items of moral evaluation that make them right or wrong, good or bad and thus explain why such items have the moral properties they have.

Practical Aim – to offer practical guidance for how we might arrive at correct or justified moral verdicts about matters of moral concern; verdicts which we can then use to help guide choice.
The Role of Moral Principles

Principles of Right Conduct
– conditions for an action’s being right or wrong

Principles of Value
– conditions under which something has intrinsic value

**P**: An action is right if and only if (and because) it would, if performed, likely bring about at least as much overall happiness as would any available alternative action.

**P**: An action is wrong if and only if (and because) it would, if performed, likely not bring about at least as much overall happiness as would any available alternative action.
Structure of a Moral Theory

-how a moral theory connects the right and the good.

Value-based Moral Theories – *(rightness is defined in terms of goodness, rightness of actions in terms of intrinsic goodness)* includes versions of consequentialism, natural law theory, and virtue ethics.

Duty-based Moral Theories – *(rightness is not defined in terms of goodness, rightness of actions are independent of considerations of goodness)* includes theories that take the concept of duty to be basic and so define or characterize the rightness of actions independently of considerations of goodness. “deontological” moral theories, prima facie duty