

4. Ethical Language: Meta-ethics

The study of meta-ethical theories and how ethical language in the modern era has changed over time

Topic	Content	Key Knowledge
Meta-ethical theories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> naturalism intuitionism emotivism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> what it is (the belief that values can be defined in terms of some natural property in the world) and its application to absolutism what it is (the belief that basic moral truths are indefinable but self-evident) and its application to the term good what it is (the belief that ethical terms evince approval or disapproval) and its application to relativism
	<p>Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to meta-ethics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether or not what is meant by the word 'good' is the defining question in the study of ethics whether or not ethical terms such as good, bad, right and wrong: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have an objective factual basis that makes them true or false in describing something reflect only what is in the mind of the person using such terms can be said to be meaningful or meaningless whether or not, from a common sense approach, people just know within themselves what is good, bad, right and wrong 	
	<p>Suggested scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority <i>Learners will be given credit for referring to any appropriate scholarly views, academic approaches and sources of wisdom and authority, however the following examples may prove useful</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moore, G.E. (1903) <i>Principia Ethica</i>, Chapter II Ayer, A.J. (1936) <i>Language, Truth and Logic</i>, London: Victor Gollancz, Chapter 6 Mackie, J.L. (1977) <i>Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong</i>, London: Penguin Books, Part 1.3 	