

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 2006 RE-SIT SESSION OF ASSESSMENTS

MRT3340 Bioethics

Mon 4 September 2006

09.15-11.15

Answer two questions:

1. Balancing sanctity and quality of life is a critical issue. Sole emphasis on sanctity of life leads to vitalism, whereas arbitrary emphasis on quality of life leads to disrespect for ill, impaired, or aged persons. Discuss this statement and elaborate your arguments with some examples of clinical cases.
2. Recent advances in biotechnology have exposed the human embryo to serious threats and risks. Some claim that the human embryo is a disposable "mass of cells", others that it is a "human being". Discuss.
3. Ambiguous clinical cases of abortion, sterilization and life sustaining treatment are often resolved by the Principle of Double Effect. Discuss.
4. What is bioethics? What is the contribution of theology to bioethics?
5. In today's culture of death, we are facing a greater temptation to resolve the problem of suffering by hastening death so that it occurs at the moment considered most suitable. Discuss.