OCR H573 | INDEPENDENT REVISION

A* Model Essay

Sexual Ethics

Religion and Ethics

Can consent alone provide an adequate basis for evaluating sexual relationships?

1,561 response words | Complete annotated PDF | Individual topic edition

What is included

A complete original response, an argument plan, paragraph-level AO1/AO2 annotations and source works for further reading.

A* describes the intended style of this teaching model. This is independently written, not an OCR-marked script or a guaranteed grade.

Use this model to study argument and evaluation, then write your own answer. Do not submit it as your own assessed work.

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Argument plan

Can consent alone provide an adequate basis for evaluating sexual relationships?

Thesis: Free and informed consent between adults is indispensable, but it does not exhaust the moral assessment of a relationship. Honesty, the effects on others, freedom from exploitation and the responsible treatment of commitments also matter. Those additional considerations do not establish that every relationship must conform to a single procreative model; they support a person-centred ethic which combines autonomy with care and accountability.

1. Consent protects agency and rejects coercive treatment of persons.

Counter-argument: Apparent agreement may coexist with deception, unequal power or disregard for existing commitments.

Interim judgement: Consent is necessary but needs substantive conditions and further moral assessment.

2. Natural Law offers an objective account of marriage and sexual purpose.

Counter-argument: Its procreative account of morally legitimate acts is contested and cannot simply be read off biology.

Interim judgement: A wider ethic of relationship is needed, but the need does not establish one exclusive procreative pattern.

3. Situation ethics, utility and Kantian respect test love, consequences and honesty.

Counter-argument: Feeling loving or predicting pleasure can obscure exploitation and the interests of others.

Interim judgement: A defensible ethic integrates adult consent with care, truthful commitments and respect for each person's agency.