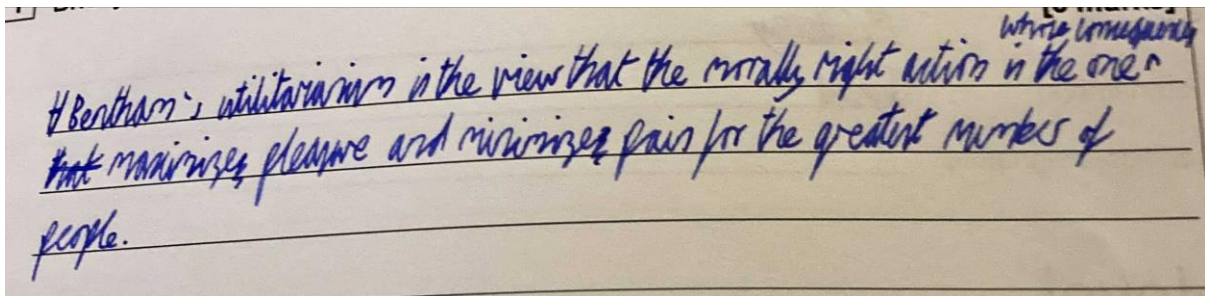*1: Briefly outline Bentham's utilitarianism [3 Marks]*

Errors
• Going into far too much detail for a 3-mark question. • Listing different kinds of utilitarianism (Act, Rule, and Preference). • Generically describing utilitarianism (not being specific enough). • Missing out the principle of utility: the moral action is that which maximises pleasure and minimises pain for the most people. • Stating the utility principle as involving maximising happiness without specifying that this = pleasure. • Missing out key content, i.e. quantitative, consequentialist, hedonistic, utility principle, focus on actions. • Imprecise language re the morality of actions or the role of pleasure.

Example top band response:

Bentham's utilitarianism is the view that the morally right action in the one that maximizes pleasure and minimizes pain for the greatest number of people.

2: Explain how Nozick's experience machine challenges hedonism [5 Marks]

Errors
• Vaguely describing the experience machine thought experiment without connecting it to hedonism. • Not being concise (using too many words to say something, such as describing the thought experiment rather than focusing on how it challenges hedonism). • Not explicitly referring how the thought experiment undermines psychological hedonism and thus ethical hedonism. • Focusing more on the importance of pain for an understanding of pleasure without explaining how this undermines hedonism. • Confusing exactly *how* the thought experiment challenges hedonism – it undermines its claim that we pursue it (and ought to). Some claimed that it challenges it because somehow the pleasure from the machine was unearned, or that the pleasure is reduced in the machine compared to life – it isn't. • Bringing in Bentham or Mill – be clear on why they might be relevant (some did mention Preference Utilitarianism, again it requires justification since it hasn't been specified in the question). • Trying to explain the points for and against plugging in. • Stating that the experience machine "proves" hedonism is wrong. "Proves" is too strong – it is not a deductive argument, so "challenges" hedonism or "suggests" hedonism is wrong, or similar is better.

Example top band response:

*if you ~~weren't~~ were
plugged into a machine.

0 2 Explain how Nozick's experience machine challenges hedonism

[5 marks]

Nozick's experience machine is the idea that you
could be connected to a ~~machine~~ for life
                    electrode
which would replicate the feeling of pleasure. So you
would live a pleasure filled life without realising *¹
Hedonism is the claim that pleasure is the only
and ultimate aim for humans.
Nozick's experience machine challenges hedonism because
when faced with that desicion most would not want
to be plugged in. This suggests to us that pleasure
is not the ultimate aim, maybe its real friendship and
experiences instead.

3: Outline Mill's 'proof' of the greatest happiness principle. [5 marks]

Errors
• Explaining details of Mill's Rule Utilitarianism rather than his proof (not asked for by the question); including, but not limited to explaining strong/weak rules, explaining higher/lower pleasures. • Lacking enough detail on the proof. • Not equating "desirable" with "good" • Including issues with Mill's utilitarian theory (not asked for by the question). • Not being clear enough as to how Mill moves from each step in the proof. • Explaining Mill's view of happiness rather than outlining his proof. • Explaining the fallacies that the proof might be charged with rather than the proof itself. • Confusing Mill with Bentham (eg by suggesting Mill believed all pleasures were equal or describing a version of act utilitarianism) • Confusing Mill with Peter Singer (Singer was around long after Mill).

Example top band response:

Mill states that happiness (or pleasure) is the ultimate and only good, and its pursuit is the only guide for human action. He brings up the point that we all desire happiness we can

only define something as good if it is desirable. As we individually desire happiness, therefore it is desirable and, furthermore, as humans collectively desire happiness it is the ultimate desire (or good). Mill additionally claims that even

Extra space in the pursuit of things other than happiness, as we ~~derive~~ happiness from the achievement of those things, we still are ultimately pursuing pleasure. Therefore, he concludes, as we only desire and pursue happiness/pleasure, it is the only, ultimate good.

4: Explain how a utilitarian could approach the issue of eating animals. [12 marks]

Errors
• Writing very generally about or not going into enough detail on (or not mentioning at all) how different kinds of utilitarianism approach the problem (lack of precision).   • Not considering how the same kind of utilitarianism might come to different answers based on different versions of a scenario.   • Not using an example to illustrate how the problem might be dealt with (this would help you focus on the question at hand).   • Confusing details (e.g. wrongly stating that Mill's utilitarianism is quantitative or Bentham distinguishes between higher and lower pleasures).   • Not explicitly writing about any of the 3 kinds of utilitarianism.   • Including a conclusion.   • Bringing in issues with utilitarianism (without relating them to eating animals).   • Explaining the kinds of utilitarianism too much without referring back to the dilemma of eating animals and how they might approach it.

Example top band response:

0 4 Explain how a utilitarian could approach the issue of eating animals

[12 marks]

A utilitarian would claim that when making a moral decision, they would take into account how much pain or pleasure the consequence of their action would have on those around them. It can be strongly argued that we should include animals into this equation, because a key rule of utilitarianism is that we must treat ~~all as~~ every being involved's happiness of equal importance.

This could be linked to issue as to whether it is morally correct to eat animals or not. A preference utilitarian may argue that it is not morally correct to eat an animal. This is ~~because~~ they would most likely claim that an animal's desire to stay alive would be far greater than for a human to have a meal that they would most likely not remember after a while. This is a strong argument because the human's desire to eat the animal is not as significant as the animal's desire to live, ~~because~~ it is a major lifechanging thing for an animal to go through. This clearly demonstrates that ~~a~~ preference utilitarian would most likely be against the idea of eating animals.

However, Mill was a utilitarian that believed in the

idea of higher and lower pleasures. This meant that he believed when making a moral decision you should focus on the quality of the pleasure, rather than the quantity. His reasoning could be used by some people to argue in favour of killing animals, because it could be argued that the pleasure of a human eating a perfectly cooked steak in a posh restaurant is a higher pleasure than the cow living a boring life, eating grass in a field. This however could be seen as a weak argument, because for the cow as an individual, it could be argued that living a simple life in a field is a higher pleasure than being slaughtered for a human to eat.

An act utilitarian may argue that eating animals is only morally correct in some circumstances. For example if 1 cow was being killed to feed 5 people, then this could be seen as following act utilitarianism because they argue that a morally correct decision should cause the greatest amount of pleasure and the lowest amount of pain for the greatest number. This specific situation would fit this criteria because there are five humans vs one cow, meaning an act utilitarian would have to favour the happiness of the humans. However this could be seen as a weak argument by some people because the 5 people eating this cow in a restaurant would increase the demand for killing animals and may

cause a greater number of cows than humans
Extra space to be caused harm.