








Home learning

- POLITICAL THEORY – YouTube
- Using the Political Theory playlist on the School of Life YouTube channel, note another way that Politics and Philosophy interact that we have not covered in this session.

1	 A portrait of John Maynard Keynes with the text 'JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES' and a duration of '11:18'.	POLITICAL THEORY - John Maynard Keynes The School of Life
2	 A portrait of Henry David Thoreau with the text 'THOREAU AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE' and a duration of '5:29'.	Thoreau and Civil Disobedience The School of Life
3	 A portrait of Friedrich Hayek with the text 'FRIEDRICH HAYEK' and a duration of '11:50'.	POLITICAL THEORY – Friedrich Hayek The School of Life
4	 A portrait of John Locke with the text 'JOHN LOCKE' and a duration of '9:14'.	POLITICAL THEORY - John Locke The School of Life
5	 A portrait of Jean-Jacques Rousseau with the text 'JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU' and a duration of '7:47'.	POLITICAL THEORY – Jean-Jacques Rousseau The School of Life
6	 A portrait of Thomas Hobbes with the text 'THOMAS HOBBS' and a duration of '6:46'.	POLITICAL THEORY - Thomas Hobbes The School of Life
7	 A portrait of Niccolò Machiavelli with the text 'NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI' and a duration of '6:53'.	POLITICAL THEORY - Niccolò Machiavelli The School of Life

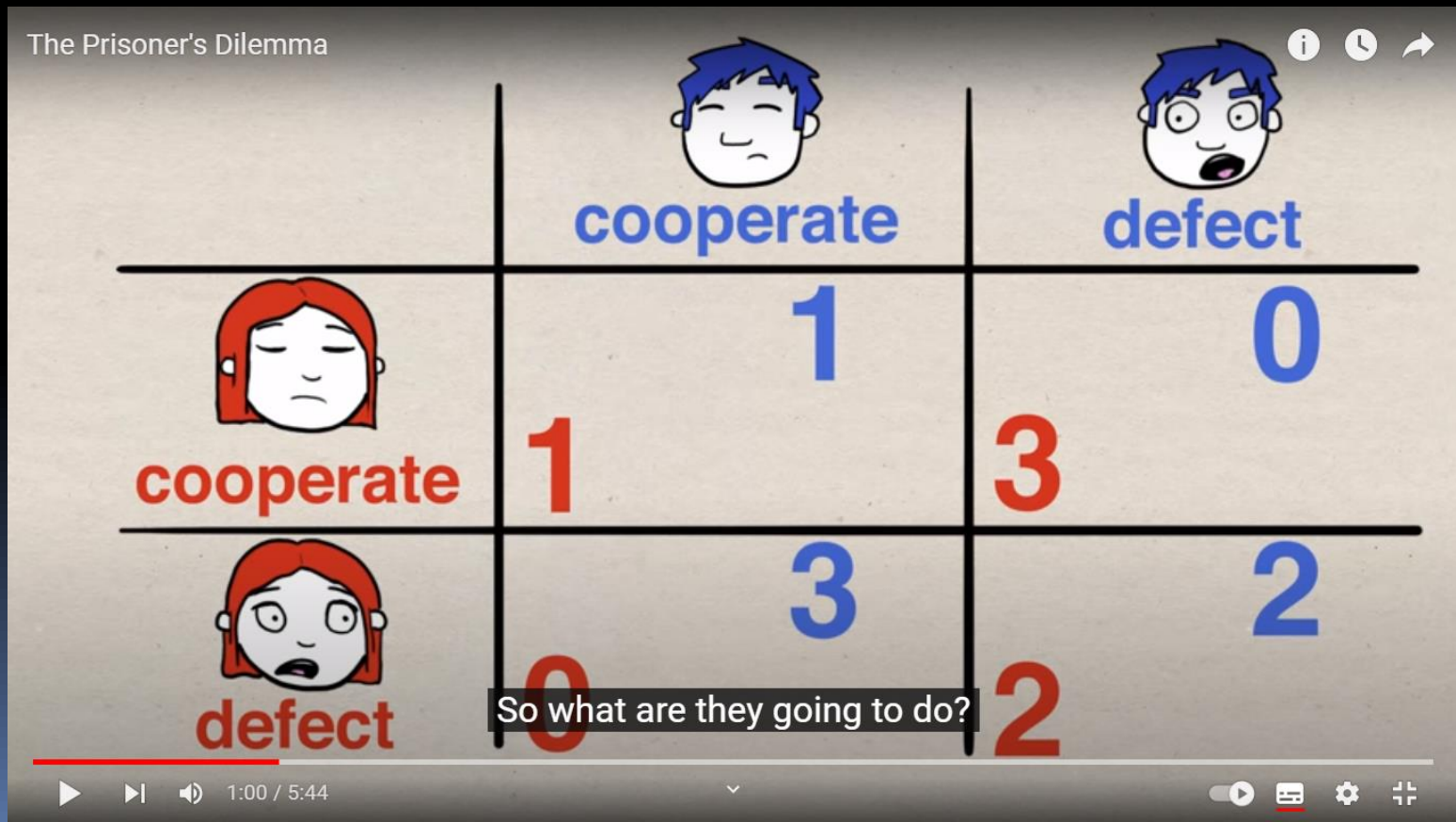


POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Lesson 2 – Philosophy, Part 2

Prisoner's dilemma

- The prisoner's dilemma is a hypothetical game showing a situation where rational agents won't want to work together even when it's beneficial to do so.



Prisoner's dilemma

- [The Prisoner's Dilemma – YouTube](#)
- As you watch, consider how the prisoner's dilemma might affect Politics.
- Discuss this in your break out rooms – 3 mins.

End



How does this relate to Politics?

- One way the prisoner's dilemma affects Politics is the proliferation of nuclear weapons. All parties would be better off in terms of safety and wealth if everyone avoided developing nuclear weapons.
- However, as long as nation-states don't trust each other it seems in their self-interest to continue developing nuclear arms.
- Does this mean nation-states are more rational than individuals? Why/why not?

Utilitarianism

- Utilitarianism is a theory of morality that advocates actions that foster happiness or pleasure and oppose actions that cause unhappiness or harm.
- According to Jeremy Bentham (still at the UCL →), we should treat everyone's pleasure equally when trying to maximise it.
- Discuss: How could this theory have an impact on Politics? Is it a convincing theory?
- You can only save one— who do you choose? - Doug MacKay - YouTube



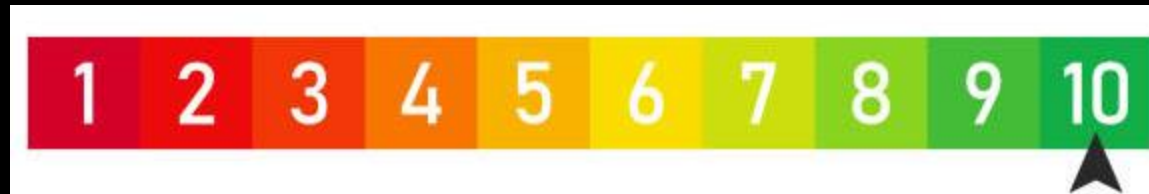
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How does this relate to Politics?

- Utilitarianism seems to be promoting democracy at its best.
- However, it also seems to imply populist policies should be adopted – why might this be problematic?
- Hint: consider how elected judges may undermine justice.
- 5:35 - 7:30 Elected Judges: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO) - YouTube



“We shouldn’t use philosophical
thought experiments in Politics –
we should focus on what is
practical”



← Agree:
Conservative
pragmatists
(focus on what is
practical)

→ Disagree:
Liberal idealists
(politics should be
based on ideas
e.g. Liberty,
equality, rights)

End





Home learning

- Find a song that links to Politics.
 - Research the context in order to explain the political view of the songwriter.
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