***Bentham’s Utilitarianism***

***Please read the (edited) extract written by Bentham (below). Can you re write it in your own modern day words? To help with this, I’ve included a glossary of some of the more tricky words he uses underneath the article.***

*Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, pain and pleasure. It is for them alone to point out what we ought to do, as well as to determine what we shall do*

*They govern us in all we do, in all we say, in all we think: every effort we can make to throw off our subjection, will serve but to demonstrate and confirm it. In words a man may pretend to abjure their empire: but in reality he will remain subject to it all the while. The principle of utility recognises this subjection, and assumes it for the foundation of that system...of reason and of law.*

*The principle of utility is ...that principle which approves or disapproves of every action whatsoever, according to the tendency which it appears to have to augment or diminish the happiness of the party whose interest is in question: ... not only of every action of a private individual, but of every measure of government.*

|  |
| --- |
| ***Sovereign: Rulers, things in charge of us...*** |
| ***Subjection: Helplessness, weakness, lack of power etc...*** |
| ***Abjure: Reject, get rid of, throw away...*** |
| ***Utility: Usefulness...*** |
| ***Augment: Enhance, add to, build upon...*** |

***Modern day re-written version...***