

Ethical Perspectives & Psychological Research

This activity will help you to:

- Understand and recall two major ethical perspectives
- Apply these perspectives to psychological research studies
- Consider the problems associated with these perspectives

Below are brief descriptions of two main ethical perspectives: the deontological and the teleological view. Identify two psychological studies that cause ethical concern, and assess whether they would be considered acceptable under each of the two perspectives. Try to identify some general problems with each perspective.



<p>Perspective</p>	<p>Study 1:</p>	<p>Study 2:</p>	<p>General Comments</p>
<p>Deontological The correctness of an action is based on whether or not it violates absolute rules. For example, 'it is wrong to hurt others'. The consequences, intended or otherwise, of an action have no bearing on whether it is morally acceptable or not.</p>			
<p>Teleological The correctness of an action depends on its consequences, not on absolute rules. It might be acceptable to hurt someone to protect others. Actions are correct if they have 'good' outcomes, regardless of whether these are intended or not.</p>			