

LearnEng with Shahan

BCS Written

English

Comprehension

Home Practice – 01

Read the following passage and answer question no. 1-7

The word 'euthanasia' is of Greek origin and literally means a good death. The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as the act of killing a person painlessly for reason of mercy. Such killing can be done through active means, such as administering a lethal injection, or by passive means, such as withholding medical care or food and water.

In recent years in the United States, there have been numerous cases of active euthanasia in the news. They usually involve the deliberate killing of ill or incapacitated persons by relatives or friends who plead that they can no longer bear to see their loved ones suffer. Although such killings are a crime, the perpetrators are often dealt with leniently by our legal system, and the media usually portrays them as compassionate heroes who take personal risks to save another from unbearable suffering.

The seeming acceptance of active forms of euthanasia is alarming, but we face a bigger, more insidious threat from passive forms of euthanasia. Every year, in hospitals and nursing homes around the country, there are growing numbers of documented deaths caused by caregivers withholding life sustaining care, including food and water, from vulnerable patients who cannot speak for themselves.

While it is illegal to kill someone directly, for example with a gun or knife, in many cases the law has put its stamp of approval on causing death by omitting needed care. Further, many states have living will laws designed to protect those

who withhold treatment, and there have been numerous court rulings which have approved of patients being denied care and even starved and dehydrated to death.

Because such deaths occur quietly within the confines of hospitals and nursing homes, they can be kept hidden from the public. Most euthanasia victims are old or very ill, so their deaths might be attributed to a cause other than the denial of care that really killed them. Further, it is often relatives of the patient who request that care be withheld. In one court case, the court held that decision to withhold life-sustaining care may be made not only by close family members but also by a number of third parties, and that such decisions need not be reviewed by the judicial system if there is no disagreement between decision makers and medical staff. The court wants so far as to rule that a nursing home may not refuse to participate in the fatal withdrawal of food and water from an incompetent patient!

Extraordinary or heroic treatment need not be used when the chance for recovery is poor and medical intervention would serve only to prolong the dying process. But to deny customary and reasonable care or to deliberately starve or dehydrate someone because he or she is very old or very ill should not be permitted. Most of the cases coming before the courts do not involve withholding heroic measures from imminently dying people, but rather they seek approval for denying basic care, such as administration of food and water, to people who are not elderly or terminally ill, but who are permanently incapacitated. These people could be expected to live indefinitely, though in an impaired state, if they were given food and water and minimal treatment.

No one has the right to judge that another's life is not worth living. The basic right to life should not be abridged because someone decides that someone else's quality of life is too low. If we base the right to life on quality of life standards, there is no logical place to draw the line.

To protect vulnerable patients, we must foster more positive attitudes towards people with serious and incapacitating illnesses and conditions. Despite the ravages of their diseases, they are still our fellow human beings and deserve our care and respect. We must also enact positive legislation that will protect vulnerable people from those who consider their lives meaningless or too costly to maintain and who would cause their deaths by withholding life-sustaining care such as food and water.

1. Answer the questions below. Do not copy any sentence from the passage above. Write the answers in your own sentences having your own wording and phrasing:

- a) What can be done to save the patients who are in extreme danger?
- b) How will legislation protect the vulnerable people?
- c) What do you understand by euthanasia?
- d) How many ways are there in euthanasia for killing a man?
- e) What sort of plea do the perpetrators put forward?
- f) Which form of euthanasia is more dangerous?
- g) Who are causing deaths in hospitals and nursing homes?
- h) What do the courts do regarding death by omitting needed care?
- i) When is extraordinary treatment needless?
- j) Give a suitable title to this passage.

2. Write meanings of the following five words used in the passage. The meanings are provided in the box below. There are more than five words in the box. Choose the appropriate meanings:

- a) Perpetrator b) Insidious c) Caregiver
d) Withheld e) Intervention

Check	Interference	Serious
Offender	Caretaker	Inference
consume	Fraudulent	Relative

3. Fill in the table by putting words in the empty cells according to their parts of speech :

Verb	Noun	Adjective
judge	(a)	X
(b)	legislation	X
(c)	death	(d)
(e)	X	human

4. Correct the following run-ons by using appropriate subordinates (or, when, so that, but, where, who, because) :

- a) The word euthanasia means a good health, at present, it is used for killing a person who is a disable patient.
- b) We should show our high respect and must give our best care to relatives or friends, they are old and very ill.
- c) A legislation is made to stop killing the person by euthanasia, it is an inhuman practice in the modern civilization.
- d) There are two types of use of euthanasia in a person such as active and passive. Active means administering a lethal injection, passive means withholding medical care or food and water.
- e) We are already witnessing worrisome abuse in justifications, euthanasia is legal.

5. Use appropriate capitalization, punctuation and quotation marks where required:

- a) Assisted suicides are not included in the reports on euthanasia in the Netherlands but it is nearly 6% more death. The report notices a dreadful alarm for next generation.
 - b) Shima said to her friend how is it possible one can kill one's person suffer.
6. Summarize the passage in your own words in 100 words.
7. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper in which the passage appeared as a feature, responding to the news on 'Euthanasia: An Inhuman Practice'.



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