

Part 2

Read the article on 'Euthanasia' in the Insert Booklet, Part 2, Pages 4-5 and answer Questions 11 - 25.

Euthanasia

Imagine you're in a hospital, laying on a hospital bed, incapable of moving your eyes, and your fuzzy eyesight realizes that your body is jolted into terrible pain every time you attempt to move your body or talk. You are still alive, but only barely. You are breathing and seeing, but is this enough to sustain life?

Oxford Dictionary defines euthanasia as the deliberate killing of a terminally ill or severely disabled person through the omission or performance of an act. These people are terminally sick, on the verge of death, and in excruciating pain. There are two types of euthanasia: To begin with, there is passive euthanasia. It is the purposeful withholding of life-sustaining care at the patient's request or due to financial inability. Second, active euthanasia grants the patient's wish to die painlessly to alleviate their suffering.

Numerous governments across the globe recognize the importance of allowing individuals the freedom to die. For example, Spain's Lower House of Parliament adopted a measure legalizing euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide a few months ago. Before that, euthanasia and assisted suicide were first permitted in the Netherlands and followed by Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, and Colombia.

While euthanasia remains illegal in Thailand, persons in the last phases of life have the right to refuse treatment under Section 12 of the Public Health Act. Patients may create a "living will" in advance, expressing their wishes to refuse treatment, and submit a copy to the hospital, avoiding the agony of being hooked up to artificial support machines. This does not, however, guarantee a peaceful and painless death. That is why euthanasia in its entirety should be legalized.

To begin, individuals should have the right to make their own dying choices, and euthanasia should be used to relieve pain and suffering. When a person is bedridden and ill, they are entirely dependent on nurses, medical professionals, and family members for basic needs like eating, using the toilet, changing clothing, and washing. This may be pretty demeaning for an individual, and many do not want to be a burden or be remembered in this manner by their family. Allowing people to choose when and how they die provides them with control over their own lives and the freedom to say or do whatever they want for their family before their death.

Second, maintaining people's lives when there is no solution for their illness is expensive. Keeping a person on life-sustaining care is prohibitively expensive, not to mention the expense of medications and hospitalization. According to the World Bank, around 1.5 million people in Thailand live below the poverty line; thus, how can individuals afford necessities for a good life? Because of their financial incapacity, many individuals turn to passive euthanasia without realizing it. Wouldn't it be preferable if they could choose their manner of death?

Thirdly, the medical resources and time given to the terminally sick patient with low recovery chances might be used to assist someone in greater need. While Thailand is regarded as a health center, with numerous hospitals, excellent physicians, and modern facilities, they are only available to those with financial means. According to the National Library for Medicine, Thailand has 2.04 health professionals per 1,000 people. The person who wants to die peacefully isn't going to be able to let go, which will make things even worse.

Finally, the mental suffering associated with witnessing a loved one become bedridden and gradually lose their life is terrifying and distressing. Some individuals consider fulfilling their loved one's request but cannot do so due to financial constraints. Legalizing euthanasia will not force someone to do so but would give a choice. Everyone must have the option of death.

The legalization of euthanasia could reduce premature suicides. Some terminally ill patients who wish to end their suffering without incriminating loved ones take their own lives in secret, sometimes violently. Knowing that they will be physically unable to do so at a later stage, some patients end their lives early on into their disease. Seven percent of doctors questioned in a Medix-UK survey reported that at least one of their terminally ill patients had committed or attempted suicide.

Apart from the benefits for the patients and the family members, the legalization of euthanasia will provide the doctors and hospitals with a reasonable ground for the action. It means that the law would pave the way to the proper procedures widely accepted in society. It may affect public opinion towards euthanasia in the long run as more and more people will understand this new concept of medication.

More importantly, it will reduce the legal jeopardy for the doctor who implements euthanasia. Legally, a person who kills another or connives at the death breaks the law and may be charged with a serious criminal offense (murder or manslaughter) and may be convicted and punished. However, the killing resulted from requests from the sufferer and done from motives of empathy and compassion will not necessarily alter the legal situation. If euthanasia were recognized as an option and provided that accompanying regulations were observed, then a person who assists a person to die would be protected from prosecution or at least have a defense.

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Read the article on 'Euthanasia' in the Insert Booklet, Part 2, Pages 4-5 and answer Questions 11 - 25.

Questions 11 - 20

Answer the following questions. For each question write no more than THREE words that must be taken from one point in the text. DO NOT write full sentences.

11 According to Oxford Dictionary, who would be qualified for euthanasia?

terminally ill person / severely disabled person

12 Apart from the fact that the patient could die painlessly, what is the purpose of euthanasia for the family members?

alleviate their suffering

13 According to the text, which country recently legalized euthanasia?

Spain

14 According to Public Health Act, what could the patients prepare prior to their euthanasia?

living will

15 When a person is bedridden, what many patients would be afraid of becoming?

a burden

16 According to the text, what is the main reason why many people choose passive euthanasia?

their financial incapacity

17 What is the doctor-to-population ratio in Thailand, according to the National Library of Medicine?

2.04

18 What would legalization of euthanasia would reduce?

premature suicides

19 What, according to the author, would be influenced by a legislation legalizing euthanasia?

Public opinion

20 What charges might the doctor face if he or she provided euthanasia to a patient illegally??

serious criminal offense

(Total for Questions 11 - 20 = 10 marks)

Questions 21 -25

Indicate your answers to the questions below by marking a cross . If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box and then indicate your new answer with a cross .

21 What is not the symptoms described in the first paragraph? (1)

- A physical pain.
- B mental suffering.
- C breathing difficulties.
- D visual incapability.

22 Which choice is correct, according to the passage? (1)

- A euthanasia is legalized in Thailand.
- B there are only one type of euthanasia.

C the Netherlands was the first country to have legalized euthanasia.

D anyone could request for euthanasia.

23 According to the text what group of people are the advanced medical facilities in Thailand for?
(1)

A everyone.

B the rich.

C terminally ill patients.

D the poor.

24 Except for what, would the legalization of euthanasia provide? (1)

A proper and standardized procedures for euthanasia.

B the right understanding among the public.

C doctors will find it easier to kill patients.

D a more peaceful means of death for the patients

25 For doctors why would the legalisation of euthanasia be critical? (1)

A the doctors would feel less guilty.

B the doctors would have a stronger legal defense.

C the doctors may have additional alternatives for specialization.

D the doctors could provide better advice to the patients

(Total for Questions 21 - 25 = 5 marks)

TOTAL FOR PART 2 = 15 MARKS