



## Toolkit 5 - Worksheet 5b – Right or Wrong? How Do Humanists Decide?

Key words: **Reason** – work things out

**Empathise** – imagine how other people might feel

**Humanists say that the right thing to do is to live a full and happy life and help others to do the same**

Everyone should be free to do what they want to, as long as they don't harm other people or the environment.

**Our only guide in working out how to do that is our human nature –**

We have the ability within ourselves to **reason** and to **empathise** with others.

**Using reason means:**

- 1 Ask yourself what will be the effects of your action.
- 2 Weigh up all the available evidence.
- 3 Try to work out what will result in the most happiness and the least pain and suffering.\*

**Using empathy means:**

- 1 Treat other people as you would like to be treated yourself (this is called the Golden Rule).
- 2 Treat other people as valuable in their own right and don't use them as a means to an end.\*\*
- 3 Do what you would be happy to see everyone do.\*\*