



Utilitarianism and Hedonism

Philosophy in KS2

John Semmens 2020

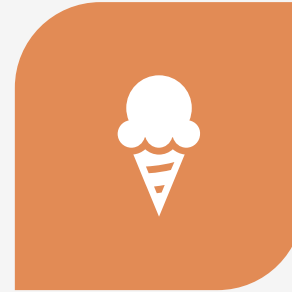
- What is happening in this picture?
- What happens as a result of this action?



- What is 'Good' about this action?
- What is 'Bad' about this action?



Deeper Thinking



SHOULD YOU EAT
ICE-CREAM?



WHO MIGHT YOUR
CHOICE EFFECT?

The Big Question:

*SHOULD
ICE-CREAM
BE BANNED?*

Step Outside the Argument:

What kind of a process have we just used?

If you used this process every time you made a choice would you make better choices?

Does anyone here live like this already?

Does everyone?

Should smoking
be banned
completely?

Why is it banned in
public buildings
and many outside
spaces too?



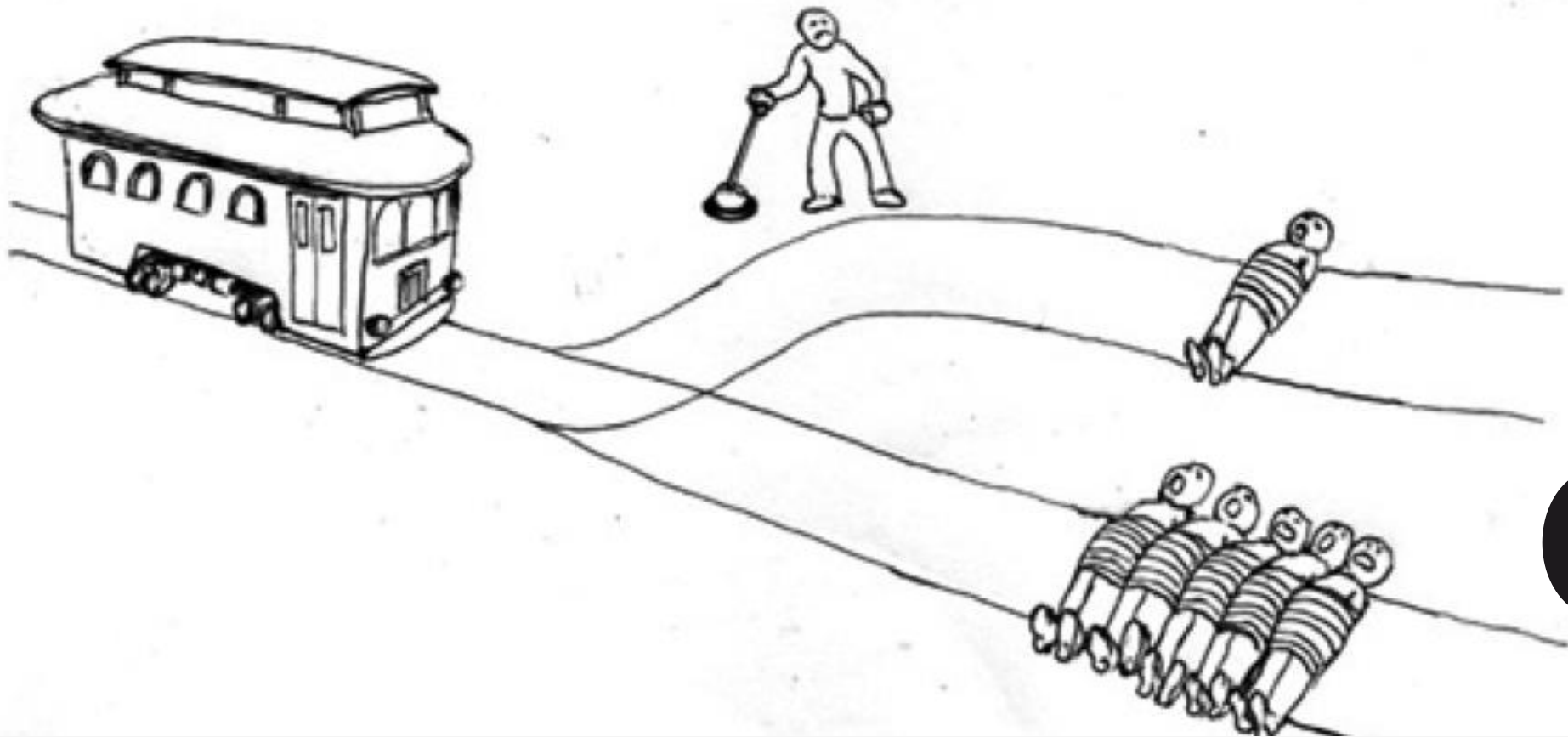
A grayscale photograph of a person holding a glass of beer. The person's face is blurred in the background, and their hands are visible holding the glass. The glass is filled with a golden liquid, likely beer, and has a white head of foam. The overall tone is somber due to the grayscale palette.

SHOULD WE BAN ALCOHOL?

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Why are illegal drugs banned?



UTILITARIANISM IN ACTION

What should the man at the junction box do?

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- **Utilitarianism** is a theory in [philosophy](#) about right and wrong actions. It says that the [morally](#) best action is the one that makes the most overall [happiness](#) or "utility" (usefulness). This is not limited to the happiness caused by a single action but also includes the happiness of all people involved and all future [consequences](#).
- The theory essentially states that an action is justifiable if it brings the most amount of happiness for the greatest number of people.
- The theory was made popular by [18th](#) and [19th](#) [century British philosophers](#) like [Francis Hutcheson](#), [Jeremy Bentham](#), and [John Stuart Mill](#), but the idea goes all the way back to [ancient](#) times.
- Bentham wrote about this idea with the words "The greatest good for the greatest number", but did not use the word *utilitarianism*. It was Mill, a follower of Bentham's ideas, who named the idea.