**ARRUPE COLLEGE**

Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities

**Masters in Philosophy**

**MEDICAL ETHICS MPA 519**

**DECEMBER 2015**

**THREE (3) HOURS**

**ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, ONE IN EACH SECTION. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

**Section A**

1. Administering a drug that eases the pain of a dying cancer patient may also weaken his condition and hasten his death; thus, the same action produces a good effect (the decrease in pain) as well as a bad effect (the decrease in life expectancy). How should such actions be analysed from an ethical viewpoint?
2. From the principles of the common good, human dignity, beneficence, and distributive justice, discuss the duty of the society to provide equal access to combination antiviral drug therapy for patients with HIV/AIDS. Given the scarcity of resources, who should be treated when not all can be treated and why?

**Section C**

1. Consider the case of a 47 year old man who has been bed-ridden, completely paralysed from the neck down since he was 17 year old and is now seeking in court the right to die. Discuss the possibility of a legal approval of a “right to die” taking into account the slippery slope and abuse arguments.
2. Discuss regulation issues related to public policies in genetic counselling. In your discussion consider society’s interests as possible justification for compulsory sterilization of institutionalized mentally challenged people.

**Section D**

1. “A strong case can be made that society can ill afford to discard the tissues and organs of the hopelessly unconscious patient; they are greatly needed for study and experimental trial to help those who can be salvaged” (*Proceedings of the Daedalus Conference*). Based on this affirmation, discuss human experimentation and its criteria within the context of the polarity between individual and society.
2. What are the main ethical problems raised by genetic engineering and stem cell research?

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**