**ARRUPE COLLEGE**

Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities

**BA Honours in Philosophy**

**BIOETHICS APH 516A**

**DECEMBER 2015**

**THREE (3) HOURS**

**ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

**Section A**

1. Discuss the inherent weakness of a code-based professional ethics and the necessity of ethical theories to both explain principles and guide us in their application.
2. Consider the following situation: patient X needs organ transplantation or will die. Patient Y is dying and can donate that organ. Can the transplant be morally acceptable without Y’s permission? Compare and contrast the possible ways Utilitarianism and Kantianism would answer this question.

**Section B**

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 the different definitions of death within the context of organ transplantation. Explain the ethical challenges raised by both shortage of organs and the type of donors.

**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**