**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ( )**

**Tuesday English News Report**

*Should* ***euthanasia*** *be legalised in Hong Kong? Debate*

Broadcast Date: 19th April

**YES**. Euthanasia should be legalised in Hong Kong. Life is not about how many days you live, but how **fulfilling** and meaningful your life is. I think the **rapid** development of medicine interferes with the nature of life and death.

People suffering from diseases that cannot be cured stay in hospital waiting for a **miracle** or death. We have neglected one thing: do they live with **dignity**? Maybe euthanasia is the only way for patients to die painlessly and honourably.

Death is inevitable when there's no **cure**. Looking for death may not seem to make sense as life is precious. But we cannot feel the pain the patients are feeling. We do not know what it's like. We do not know what's happening inside their body. No words can describe their feelings. Euthanasia is a relief for them.

Furthermore, because of human rights we should respect others' decisions. Every patient has a right to choose their treatment. For example, psychotic patients always turn down treatment as they think they're normal. And Hong Kong has no law that says medical treatment is **compulsory**. People have the right to die. Casting our emotions aside, the medical expenses of an incurable patient are a massive **burden** to the family. Most people cannot afford it. If we put ourselves in the patients' shoes, we would understand. They not only want to die, they also want to reduce their family's burden.

**NO**. Euthanasia should not be legalised in Hong Kong. Euthanasia, defined as mercy killing, is carried out when a patient is suffering from an **incurable** illness.

Who decides which patient should get euthanasia? Doctors. If euthanasia is legalised in Hong Kong, the burden of a doctor will be greatly increased. Doctors already have to make decisions as to which medicine to prescribe and how to diagnose patients.

Now euthanasia supporters want to force them to decide which patient will live or die, and want them to actually kill the patient. This is **outrageous**.

In addition, the family will also be involved in making the decision of whether to let their loved ones live or die. If euthanasia is carried out on a patient, family members may feel guilty about the patient's death. If serious, this negative thinking could result in a breakdown.

The opposition is sure to say that everyone has the right to choose, so patients should have the right to choose whether to die or not. But we must understand that we are dealing with death here and not some simple decision. There's no turning back. There's no chance to reverse your decision.

Incurable diseases may seem to be incurable, but nowadays medical technology is rapidly advancing. There may soon be a cure for a **terminal illness**. Why carry out euthanasia when there could be a cure?

 Doctor comforting dying patient

1. What do you think?
2. Vocabulary

*Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using words from the box.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| euthanasia | fulfilling | rapid | miracle(s) |
| dignity | cure | compulsory | burden |
| incurable | outrageous | terminal illness |  |

1. My landlord has doubled the rent on my apartment! It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
2. Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is one of his most famous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Wearing the correct school uniform is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in St. Louis School.
4. Currently there is no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for motor neurone disease. If you get it, you will die.
5. She has to pay a lot of money for her children’s education. It is a great financial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for her.
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the painless killing of someone who is dying from a painful or terminal disease.
7. Nelson Mandela was a man of great wisdom and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. His rise in the company was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (very quick).
9. Parkinson’s disease is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ illness.
10. Motor neurone disease is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. She died aged 98. She had a happy, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life with no regrets.

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