Of the principle of Utility

1. The definition of utility

Utility is that property in any object, whereby it tends to produce benefit, pleasure, good, or happiness, or to prevent the happening of mischief, pain, evil, or unhappiness to the party whose interest is considered

1. The principle on which it is based

A thing is said to promote the interest, or to be for the interest, of an individual, when it tends to add to the sum of his pleasures: or, what comes to the same thing, to diminish the sum of his pains.

1. The way in which utility can affect policies

A measure of government may be said to be conformable to or dictated by the principle of utility, when in like manner the tendency which it has to augment the happiness of the community is greater than any which it has to diminish it.