**Ethics Cheat Sheet**

**1. Subjective Relativism**

* **Definition:** Morality is based on individual beliefs; what is right for one person may be wrong for another.
* **Key Principle:** "What's right for me is right for me; what's right for you is right for you."
* **Strengths:** Allows personal freedom and tolerance.
* **Weaknesses:** Leads to moral contradictions; no universal ethical standards.
* **Example:** One person believes lying is acceptable in certain cases, while another believes it is always wrong.

**2. Cultural Relativism**

* **Definition:** Morality depends on societal norms and cultural practices.
* **Key Principle:** "When in Rome, do as the Romans do."
* **Strengths:** Respects cultural diversity.
* **Weaknesses:** Prevents moral progress; makes it difficult to criticize harmful cultural practices.
* **Example:** In some cultures, arranged marriages are ethical, while in others they are seen as unethical.

**3. Divine Command Theory**

* **Definition:** Morality is determined by God's will or religious teachings.
* **Key Principle:** "An action is right if God commands it."
* **Strengths:** Provides clear moral guidance.
* **Weaknesses:** Relies on religious belief; leads to moral dilemmas (e.g., differing religious interpretations).
* **Example:** The Ten Commandments dictate moral behavior.

**4. Ethical Egoism**

* **Definition:** Actions are morally right if they benefit oneself.
* **Key Principle:** "Everyone should act in their own self-interest."
* **Strengths:** Encourages self-reliance.
* **Weaknesses:** Leads to conflicts and lack of concern for others.
* **Example:** A businessperson chooses profit over social responsibility.

**5. Kantianism**

* **Definition:** Morality is based on rational duty and universal moral laws.
* **Key Principle:** "Act only according to principles that you would will to be universal laws."
* **Strengths:** Respects individual dignity; provides clear rules.
* **Weaknesses:** Ignores consequences; can be rigid.
* **Example:** Always telling the truth, even if lying would save someone’s life.

**6. Act Utilitarianism**

* **Definition:** Morality is determined by the consequences of an individual act.
* **Key Principle:** "Maximize happiness for the greatest number."
* **Strengths:** Focuses on real-world outcomes.
* **Weaknesses:** Hard to predict consequences; justifies harmful acts if they produce overall good.
* **Example:** Lying to prevent panic in a crisis.

**7. Rule Utilitarianism**

* **Definition:** Morality is determined by rules that maximize happiness in the long run.
* **Key Principle:** "Follow moral rules that generally lead to the best consequences."
* **Strengths:** Creates stability and fairness.
* **Weaknesses:** Can still lead to moral conflicts.
* **Example:** Following laws that benefit society, even if breaking them in some cases would have a good outcome.

**8. Social Contract Theory**

* **Definition:** Morality is based on agreements within a society.
* **Key Principle:** "People give up some freedoms for security and social order."
* **Strengths:** Justifies legal and political structures.
* **Weaknesses:** Assumes everyone has equal power in forming contracts.
* **Example:** Paying taxes to support public services.

**9. Virtue Ethics**

* **Definition:** Morality is based on developing good character traits.
* **Key Principle:** "Be a good person rather than just following rules."
* **Strengths:** Encourages long-term moral growth.
* **Weaknesses:** Lacks clear guidelines for action.
* **Example:** Cultivating honesty, courage, and compassion over time.

**10. Comparing Workable Ethical Theories**

| **Theory** | **Focus** | **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Kantianism** | Duty & rationality | Consistent moral laws | Rigid, ignores consequences |
| **Utilitarianism** | Outcomes & happiness | Practical, focuses on well-being | Hard to predict consequences |
| **Social Contract** | Society & agreements | Justifies laws & social order | Assumes fair social agreements |
| **Virtue Ethics** | Character development | Promotes moral growth | No clear action guidelines |

**Final Tip:**

* If asked **"What should I do?"** → Use **Kantianism or Utilitarianism**.
* If asked **"What kind of person should I be?"** → Use **Virtue Ethics**.
* If asked **"How should we structure society?"** → Use **Social Contract Theory**.

Networked CommunicationsDefinition: The ethical implications of online interactions, including social media, digital discourse, and remote communication.

Key Ethical Concerns:

Freedom of Speech vs. Harm: Balancing free expression with preventing misinformation, hate speech, and cyberbullying.

Digital Privacy: Issues related to data collection, surveillance, and user tracking by corporations and governments.

Net Neutrality: The principle that all internet traffic should be treated equally without favoritism by service providers.

Cybersecurity & Hacking: Ethical concerns over ethical hacking, data breaches, and unauthorized surveillance.

Online Anonymity: The ethical dilemmas of anonymous speech, including both protection of privacy and the risks of misuse (e.g., cyberstalking, fraud).

Case Studies:

The Facebook-Cambridge Analytica Scandal: Ethical concerns about user data manipulation for political campaigns.

Twitter and Free Speech: Issues around platform moderation and deplatforming controversial figures.

Government Censorship in China: The ethical implications of restricting online content and access to information.

Yes! Here's a **separate** summary of **Chapter 4: Intellectual Property** from *Ethics for the Information Age*:

**Chapter 4: Intellectual Property**

**Definition:** Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, including inventions, literary works, music, and software. Ethical concerns arise in protecting IP while promoting innovation and accessibility.

**Key Topics in Intellectual Property Ethics:**

1. **Types of Intellectual Property:**
   * **Copyright:** Protects creative works like books, movies, and music.
   * **Patents:** Grants exclusive rights to inventors for new inventions.
   * **Trademarks:** Protects symbols, names, and logos used in commerce.
   * **Trade Secrets:** Confidential business information, like Coca-Cola's recipe.
2. **Ethical Issues in Intellectual Property:**
   * **Balancing Creator Rights vs. Public Access:** Should patents on life-saving drugs be enforced strictly, or should they be made available to all?
   * **Copyright vs. Fair Use:** When is it ethical to use copyrighted material for education, criticism, or parody?
   * **Software Piracy:** Is downloading software illegally always unethical, or does it depend on the circumstances?
   * **Open-Source vs. Proprietary Software:** Should software be free and publicly available, or should developers profit from their work?
3. **Case Studies:**
   * **Napster and Music Piracy:** The rise and fall of Napster, and how digital piracy reshaped music distribution.
   * **Google Books Project:** Ethical concerns about scanning copyrighted books for public access.
   * **Patent Wars (Apple vs. Samsung):** Disputes over smartphone design and technology patents.
4. **Laws and Regulations:**
   * **Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA):** Strengthens copyright protections but raises concerns about restricting fair use.
   * **Creative Commons Licenses:** Allows creators to specify how their work can be used legally.
   * **Patent Trolls:** Companies that acquire patents just to sue others, raising ethical concerns.
5. **Moral Theories and Intellectual Property:**
   * **Utilitarianism:** Encourages innovation by rewarding inventors but argues for limitations when public good outweighs profits.
   * **Kantianism:** Supports strong IP rights, as creators deserve recognition and ownership of their work.
   * **Social Contract Theory:** Suggests a balance—IP laws should benefit both creators and society.
   * **Virtue Ethics:** Encourages ethical sharing and responsible innovation.

**Key Questions for Discussion:**

* Should all software be open-source?
* Is digital piracy always unethical, or does context matter?
* Should pharmaceutical companies have the right to patent life-saving medications?
* How do we balance innovation with fair competition?

This should help you understand **Chapter 4** in depth. Let me know if you need anything clarified! 🚀

Since you don’t have a clear idea of what will be on the exam, the best approach is to prepare **key concepts, comparisons, case studies, and possible essay/discussion questions** from each chapter. Here are some **high-yield** study tips and **must-know points**:

**1. Essential Ethical Theories Cheat Sheet**

**(Be ready to apply these theories to different ethical dilemmas)**

| **Theory** | **Key Idea** | **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subjective Relativism** | Morality is personal | Respects individual beliefs | No universal standards |
| **Cultural Relativism** | Morality depends on society | Respects diversity | No basis for criticizing harmful traditions |
| **Divine Command** | God determines morality | Provides clear moral guidance | Depends on religious belief |
| **Ethical Egoism** | Act in your own self-interest | Promotes self-reliance | Encourages selfishness |
| **Kantianism** | Follow moral duty (Categorical Imperative) | Universal rules, respects autonomy | Ignores consequences |
| **Utilitarianism** | Maximize happiness (Act/Rule) | Focuses on well-being | Hard to predict all consequences |
| **Social Contract** | Morality comes from agreements | Justifies laws, democracy | Assumes fair social conditions |
| **Virtue Ethics** | Develop good character traits | Focuses on moral growth | Lacks clear action rules |

**2. Must-Know Topics from Each Chapter**

**Chapter 1-2: Introduction to Ethics**

* Understand **morality vs. ethics** (ethics = systematic study of morality).
* Differentiate between **descriptive ethics (what people do)** vs. **normative ethics (what people should do)**.
* **Moral theories** (see table above).

**Chapter 3: Networked Communications**

* **Freedom of Speech vs. Harm** (misinformation, hate speech, censorship).
* **Privacy Issues** (corporate surveillance, government tracking).
* **Net Neutrality** (internet providers controlling access/speed).
* **Cybersecurity & Hacking** (white-hat vs. black-hat hacking).
* **Case Studies:** Cambridge Analytica, Twitter moderation, China’s internet censorship.

**Chapter 4: Intellectual Property**

* **Copyright, Patents, Trademarks, Trade Secrets** (know definitions).
* **Piracy and Fair Use** (Napster, Google Books).
* **Patent Trolls** (exploiting patents for lawsuits).
* **Open-Source vs. Proprietary Software** (who controls digital knowledge?).
* **Case Studies:** Apple vs. Samsung (patent wars), DMCA controversies.

**3. Anticipated Exam Questions**

Your professor might ask:

* **Definition & Application Questions**:
  + Explain **Act vs. Rule Utilitarianism** and give an example.
  + How does **Kantianism differ from Utilitarianism**?
  + What is **Net Neutrality**, and why is it an ethical issue?
* **Case Study-Based Questions**:
  + Discuss an ethical dilemma in **intellectual property**.
  + Should companies like **Facebook be responsible for fake news**? Why or why not?
  + Is it ethical to **illegally download software/music** if you can’t afford it?
* **Discussion & Essay Questions**:
  + Are **ethical theories universal**, or do they change with culture?
  + How should we balance **privacy rights vs. security concerns**?
  + Compare **virtue ethics with social contract theory** in regulating online behavior.

**1. Act vs. Rule Utilitarianism - Hypothetical Question**

**Question:**

**"Explain the difference between Act and Rule Utilitarianism. Provide an example where they might lead to different ethical conclusions."**

**Answer Guide:**

✅ **Act Utilitarianism**: Judges each individual action based on whether it produces the greatest happiness.  
✅ **Rule Utilitarianism**: Focuses on **general rules** that lead to the greatest happiness in the long run.

**Example Scenario:**  
Imagine a hospital has **five dying patients** who each need a different organ transplant. A healthy person walks in for a checkup. If the doctors secretly take their organs and distribute them to the five patients, it would **save more lives**.

* **Act Utilitarianism** would say:  
  ✅ The happiness of five outweighs the suffering of one, so the **organ theft is justified**.
* **Rule Utilitarianism** would say:  
  ❌ If doctors start killing healthy people, **society will lose trust in hospitals**, leading to **long-term harm**. The **rule against killing should stand**, even if it means five patients die.

Thus, **Act Utilitarianism allows exceptions, while Rule Utilitarianism values consistent moral rules**.

**2. Should Facebook Be Responsible for Fake News? - Hypothetical Question**

**Question:**

**"Should companies like Facebook be held responsible for misinformation and fake news spread on their platforms? Use an ethical theory to support your answer."**

**Possible Answer (Multiple Approaches):**

✅ **Kantianism (Yes, Facebook Should Be Responsible)**

* Facebook **must act according to moral duty**, and spreading lies **cannot be universalized**.
* **Deception is always wrong** under Kantian ethics, so Facebook has a duty to **moderate content responsibly**.

✅ **Utilitarianism (Depends on Consequences)**

* If banning fake news reduces **overall harm and misinformation**, then regulation is justified.
* But if too much moderation limits **free speech**, it could cause **greater harm**.

✅ **Social Contract Theory (Yes, If Public Agrees on Regulations)**

* If society agrees that social media companies should prevent harm, **Facebook is obligated to regulate**.
* However, if the **public values free speech more**, then responsibility lies with users, not Facebook.

✅ **Ethical Egoism (No, Facebook Should Focus on Profit)**

* A company’s goal is **profit, not truth**.
* If regulating news costs too much, Facebook **should not be forced to do it**.