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# **Cultivated Code of Conduct**

**v5.4**

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This document has been superseded by

CCC v \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (DD/MM/YYYY).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*“One thing is needful.* — To “give style” to one’s character—a great and rare art! It is practiced by those who survey all the strengths and weaknesses of their nature and then fit them into an artistic plan until every one of them appears as art and reason and even weaknesses delight the eye. Here a large mass of second nature has been added; there a piece of original nature has been removed—both times through long practice and daily work at it. Here the ugly that could not be removed is concealed; there it has been reinterpreted and made sublime. Much that is vague and resisted shaping has been saved and exploited for distant views; it is meant to beckon toward the far and immeasurable. In the end, when the work is finished, it becomes evident how the constraint of a single taste governed and formed everything large and small. Whether this taste was good or bad is less important than one might suppose, if only it was a single taste! . . . ”

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— Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, Aphorism 290

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# 1 The Paragon

The “**Paragon**” refers to the ideal version of myself, embodying the skills, qualities, and characteristics I aspire to attain. The ultimate goal of all the succeeding sections in this document is to bring me as close as possible to the Paragon.

While the statements describing the Paragon are not strictly enforceable in the same way as the obligations in later sections, they serve as guiding principles to steer my character development and help navigate challenging life situations. Furthermore, the statements are not numbered to indicate priority but solely for ease of reference. The “I” in these statements refers to the Paragon, as opposed to my current self.

## 1.1 Integrity and Discipline

1. I do not waste time.
  - 1.1. I place a meaningful purpose behind every action that requires one.
2. I am not addicted to anything involuntarily.
3. I do not depend on anyone in all major aspects of my life.
4. I deceive as little as possible.<sup>1</sup>
  - 4.1. I deceive myself as little as possible.
5. I can control or sublimate any drive or impulse.
  - 5.1. I am impervious to uncontrolled lust.

## 1.2 Resilience and Growth

1. I always persevere and progress, regardless of the severity of the challenges or setbacks encountered.
2. I am never the victim.
3. I commit fully to everything I choose to pursue seriously.
  - 3.1. I do not yield until the goal I have chosen to pursue is achieved.
4. I am well-read in a broad range of topics.
  - 4.1. I read and critically analyse multiple books every week.
    - 4.1.1. I retain the necessary information from all the books I read for the long term.
5. I am creative.

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<sup>1</sup>A revised version of “I do not deceive” due to the “Nazis at the door” hypothetical.

### **1.3 Physicality**

1. I am in excellent physical shape.
  - 1.1. I am stronger than the vast majority of the male population close to my age in terms of absolute physical strength.
    - 1.1.1. I have never used any performance-enhancing drugs.
    - 1.2. I have unyielding physical endurance.
  2. I am highly proficient in at least one martial art.

### **1.4 Relationships**

1. I stand up for myself and others when necessary.
2. I am in a relationship with a single woman whom I truly love.
  - 2.1. I have children.
3. I am able to support my friends and family financially, emotionally, and otherwise at all times.

### **1.5 Miscellaneous**

1. I do not need the CCC to control my behaviour.

## 2 Preamble

“I”, Akim ██████████, hereby commit to the following Cultivated Code of Conduct (hereinafter referred to as the “CCC”), and pledge my sincere intention to adhere to the principles, standards, and rules set forth herein.

I affirm my responsibility to uphold the standards and rules embodied in the CCC to the best of my ability, and to conduct myself in a manner consistent with these provisions. This strongly implies that deliberate circumvention of rules described hereinafter is strictly prohibited.

I recognise that the CCC is a living document, subject to change and growth as I see fit, and I pledge to regularly revisit, update and adapt these commitments according to my evolving principles and understanding.

The key words “**MUST**”, “**MUST NOT**”, “**REQUIRED**”, “**SHALL**”, “**SHALL NOT**”, “**SHOULD**”, “**SHOULD NOT**”, “**RECOMMENDED**”, “**MAY**”, and “**OPTIONAL**” in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#).

I acknowledge that my failure to abide by the rules and standards described hereinafter MUST result in self-imposed penalties or actions, and I accept responsibility for these consequences.

## 3 Conduct Enforcement

### 3.1 Penalties

Utmost, conscientious adherence to the CCC is paramount. However, for all intents and purposes, some rules will inevitably be breached. Thus, one of the penalties described hereinafter MUST be imposed for every broken rule in accordance with specified breach degree (see Section 3.2).

Given that the default penalty demands physical exertion, its imposition may not always be feasible, for instance, in the event of an injury. Consequently, it is mandated to select the first practicable penalty from the following order of priority:

1. **Burpees.** 300 burpees of the proper form MUST be performed by no later than the end of the next “**day**”, where a day is defined as the period of time from the morning awakening to falling asleep at night, unless otherwise stated.
2. **Push-ups and squats.** A total of 600 push-ups and squats of the proper form MUST be performed by no later than the end of the next day. Although the proportion of each exercise contributed to the total is not fixed, it is encouraged to aim for at least 40% of push-ups.

3. **Video content consumption.** No video content is allowed to be consumed in solitary setting for the entirety of the next day, with the exception of practical educational content. For more details on video content refer to Section 5.1.

When multiple penalties are incurred, either from a breach of specified degree or from violations of multiple rules, the maximum number of days permitted to address these penalties matches the number of incurred penalties.

If a penalty remains unfulfilled by the conclusion of the designated period, it MUST be augmented by an additional 50% of the base (the initially incurred) penalty, with one extra day allocated for completion.<sup>2</sup> This procedure recurs for each successive failure to meet the penalty requirements within the extended timeframe.

While the incurrence of all penalties is strictly enforced, in the event of exceptional circumstances, the initiation of the penalty period MAY be postponed by one day, effectively extending the compliance deadline accordingly.

## 3.2 Breach Degrees

Every rule in the CCC should explicitly specify a breach degree that determines the magnitude of penalty to be incurred in the case of a violation (see Section 3.1). Should it fail to be specified, the selection of a breach degree must be made at my discretion. There are a total of four breach degrees, outlined as follows:

1. **First-degree breach** is the most severe type of CCC violation, which in principle should never occur. It is not subject to Section 3.1 penalties due to its severity, and thus MUST incur an appropriate penalty determined at my discretion and potentially in consultation with trusted third parties. This category is typically associated with serious legal, moral, or otherwise significant violations.
2. **Second-degree breach** incurs a *triple* penalty. This category is typically associated with violations of obligations that carry moderate to severe consequences, as well as those breaches that may undermine the integrity of adherence to the CCC.
3. **Third-degree breach** incurs a *double* penalty. This category is typically associated with violations of obligations that may result in noticeable consequences, as well as those breaches that are expected to be fulfilled either weekly or on a less frequent basis.

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<sup>2</sup>For example, should I fail to complete a base penalty of 900 ( $= 300 \times 3$ ) burpees within three days, the penalty increases by 450 burpees to a total of 1350 burpees, with an additional day for completion. If unmet again, the penalty rises by another 450 burpees to a total of 1800 burpees, now with a total of five days allocated for fulfillment.

4. **Fourth-degree breach** incurs a *singular* penalty. This category represents the least severe type of CCC violation, typically associated with minor incidents that have little to no consequences.
5. **Fifth-degree breach** incurs *one-third* of a penalty, except for non-physically exertive penalties, in which case it incurs a *singular* penalty. This category covers technical violations or minor slip-ups, such as slightly exceeding a set limit, like five minutes or a few units, depending on the context.

## 4 Health and Lifestyle

### 4.1 Physical Activity

The amount of physical activity is measured in “**training sessions**”. The definition of a training session varies depending on the type, duration, and intensity of the physical activity undertaken, thus one training session may be equivalent to a moderately intense 45-minute workout at a conventional gym, as well as a moderately intense 90-minute exercise at a bouldering gym. Ultimately, the determination of what constitutes a training session is left to my discretion, guided by the specific context and my reasoned judgement.

The number of training sessions per calendar week MUST be greater or equal than four. However, this requirement MAY be waived under exceptional circumstances, such as events objectively preventing me from fulfilling the quota, including but not limited to physical incapacity due to illness or injury, and vital academic or work-related obligations. A **third-degree breach**.

#### 4.1.1 Physiological Improvements

I MUST perform a sufficient volume of exercise targeting my abs, lower back, and lower body every calendar week (at least one full training session). For instance, hip thrusts, RDLs, variations of crunches, back extensions, and others. Furthermore, I SHOULD perform some basic stretching every training session. A **third-degree breach**.

I am REQUIRED to perform neck strengthening exercises aimed at fixing the forward neck posture for at least a couple of minutes every day. A **fourth-degree breach**.

I am strongly encouraged to either change posture or stand up at least every 45 to 60 minutes of sitting.

## **4.2 Diet**

Every obligation in Section 4.2 falls under the **third-degree breach**.

The long-term dietary regimen MUST adhere to principles of healthfulness and balance. The dietary recommendations established by the NHS MAY be used as a reference.

The consumption of products high in unhealthy fats or added sugars must be minimised. Food sourced from major fast food chains, such as McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, and similar establishments, MUST NOT exceed two days per calendar week. The daily intake of added sugars MUST NOT, on average, exceed the recommendation of 30 grams as set forth by the NHS. These requirements, while binding, are subject to occasional exceptions, provided they are within reasonable limits.

## **4.3 Sleep Schedule**

It is mandatory to be out of bed with the intention of performing the entire morning routine by 7:35 AM, and to be in bed for the night after completing the entire evening routine by 10:00 PM local time every day during active term time. Note that the evening routine MUST include brushing teeth with a single-tuft toothbrush if it is available. The next 15 minutes are allocated for winding down, daily journaling, changing bedding (which is allowed to take a bit longer), etc. By 10:15 PM all activity must be ceased, with the exception of reading literature (see Section 6.1). Daytime sleeping is strongly discouraged, except for nonconsecutive naps not exceeding 20 minutes each.

This obligation MAY be temporarily suspended in the event of exceptional circumstances. A **fourth-degree breach**.

## **4.4 Phone Screen Time**

**“Active screen time”** is defined as the duration during which a device is used for tasks that necessitate direct input or continuous engagement from the user.

Active phone screen time MUST remain at or below six hours per day, unless I justifiably deem it necessary or appropriate to exceed this limitation. A **fourth-degree breach**.

# **5 Recreational Activities**

## **5.1 Video Content Consumption**

Every obligation in Section 5.1 falls under the **fourth-degree breach**.

Limitations on the time dedicated to consuming long-form video content in solitary setting differ in accordance with the type of content being watched:

1. **Videos on the YouTube platform** MUST NOT be consumed for more than 50 consecutive minutes, unless the video itself is longer than the limit. In this case, it SHOULD be re-categorised accordingly.
2. The number of **episodes in a series** that may be viewed consecutively is limited to four for episodes with a duration not exceeding 15 minutes, to three for episodes not exceeding 25 minutes, and to two for episodes not exceeding 50 minutes. Episodes lasting for 50 minutes or more MUST NOT be viewed for more than 90 consecutive minutes.
3. The viewing of **cinematographic works** exceeding 80 minutes in duration is permissible, so long as it does not serve as a means to procrastinate.
4. **Practical educational content**, including but not limited to video recordings of lectures and work-related tutorials, is exempt from any prescribed duration limitations.
5. **Other types** of long-form video content are to be subjected to time restrictions in line with the aforementioned limits at my discretion.

The aforementioned limits are reset following a period of abstention equal to the duration of a “**viewing session**”. A viewing session is defined as a time period of consecutive long-form video content consumption followed by at least 10 minutes of abstention. Consuming such content between viewing sessions is prohibited. In the case of multiple types of content viewed in one session, the duration limit is left to be determined at my discretion.

Once viewing of short-form video content, such as YouTube Shorts or Instagram Reels, is initiated—with the sound muted or otherwise—an 11-minute consumption window begins. This window concludes after 11 minutes, regardless of the actual viewing time. Immediately following this period, a mandatory break of at least one hour is REQUIRED before any further consumption of such content is permitted. During this break, no viewing of short-form video content is allowed, ensuring a period of non-consumption to reset the viewing cycle. Note that when the sound is muted, viewing no more than five pieces of short-form video content at a time does not begin the consumption window or interrupt the break. Furthermore, I am not allowed to spend more than 1.5 hours on Instagram per day, regulated by the built-in feature.

The consumption of video content for entertainment purposes is prohibited following morning wakefulness before having a full-fledged breakfast.

All requirements in Section 5.1 MAY be temporarily suspended in the event of physical illness, serious injury, or circumstances in which the expected waiting time is two hours or more and it is unreasonably difficult to engage in productive activity (e.g., waiting for a flight at an airport).

## 5.2 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## 5.3 Use and Acquisition of Recreational Drugs

The only recreational drugs permitted for consumption are explicitly restricted to **alcohol**, **nicotine** and **caffeine**. The consumption or possession of any other substances categorised as recreational drugs is strictly prohibited and is a **first-degree breach**.

### 5.3.1 Alcohol

The quantity of alcohol consumed per week MUST remain in accordance with the NHS recommendations, which, as of April 12, 2024, equates to 14 alcohol units<sup>3</sup> on a regular basis. This quantity MAY be occasionally exceeded within reasonable limits. A **third-degree breach**.

### 5.3.2 Nicotine

The purchase of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or nicotine pouches for personal use is prohibited, with the exception of purchasing and using these products shortly before, after or with the intention of [REDACTED]. The use of any product obtained under this exception MUST be promptly discontinued thereafter, either by discarding the product or by storing it away. A **second-degree breach**.

The use of cigarettes or e-cigarettes without adhering to all of the following conditions constitutes a **third-degree breach**:

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<sup>3</sup>For reference, one alcohol unit corresponds to a single small shot of spirit (25ml, ABV 40%), while a pint of higher-strength lager, beer, or cider (568ml, ABV 5.3%) amounts to approximately three alcohol units. The formula to calculate the number alcohol units is given by:

$$\text{Number of alcohol units} = \frac{\text{Volume in ml} \times \text{Alcohol content (ABV) in \%}}{1000}$$

1. I am partaking in social interactions.
2. I have consumed no fewer than 2.5 units of alcohol, with the explicit stipulation that the alcohol was not consumed with the intention of enabling the use of cigarettes or e-cigarettes.
3. The cigarettes or e-cigarettes have been voluntarily donated by a third party.
4. I am not exceeding the consumption limit of nicotine-containing inhalant products, defined as three days within a calendar week.
5. I have not used cigarettes or e-cigarettes for three or more consecutive days.

The use of nicotine pouches voluntarily donated by a third party is permitted in moderate quantities.

The acquisition of other nicotine-containing products intended predominantly for aesthetic purposes, including but not limited to cigars and smoking pipes, is permitted for personal use. Such products must only be used occasionally and in moderation.

## 6 Routine Obligations

### 6.1 Reading

Reading literature MUST be undertaken for no less than a total of one hour on a daily basis after 8 PM local time. In the event of exceptional circumstances, it remains strongly encouraged to uphold the daily reading habit; under such conditions, engaging in reading for any duration, even for as little as five minutes, is valued. The primary aim of this stipulation is to ensure daily consistency, prioritising regular engagement over the quantity of reading. Note that this type of reading does not contribute to meeting the daily working hours requirement from Section 6.2. A **fourth-degree breach**.

Furthremore, after finishing a book, I am REQUIRED to write down at least three things that I got out of it and want to remember before starting to read the next book. A **third-degree breach**.

I MUST read the next applicable book according to the “How to Read a Book” by Mortimer J. Adler and Charles Van Doren guidelines. This clause is provisional. A **third-degree breach**.

### 6.2 Working Hours

“Work” is defined as any productive activity undertaken to achieve specific professional or structured educational objectives. This includes, but is not limited to, doing paid work, producing useful written output (inter alia, the CCC), engaging in active learning (such as

reading textbooks, watching tutorials, attending university lectures, and similar activities) or professional communication.

**Active term time** is defined as the official University of Bath term time during which I am physically present in Bath or Didcot, UK, for the purpose of studying at the university or undertaking an industrial placement.

A minimum of five hours of work SHOULD be undertaken every working day (Monday to Friday) under regular circumstances. The total number of working hours per calendar week MUST sum up to no fewer than 30. Should a persistent impediment arise, for instance an illness, the required number of working hours MAY be decreased to a reasonable level. The stipulation is active during active term time, however I must also choose whether it is active or not within one week of each transitionary period from one active term time to another. A **third-degree breach**.

### 6.3 Staying In Contact

I MUST either call my parents and sister, or talk to them in person, at least once every calendar week. Exceptional circumstances do NOT apply. A **third-degree breach**.

Furthermore, I MUST stay in touch with other friends and relatives on a regular basis. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] A **third-degree breach**.

### 6.4 Daily Journaling

I MUST log my daily activities at the end of every day by dedicating at least five minutes to writing them down. Exceptional circumstances apply. A **fourth-degree breach**.

### 6.5 Chores

I MUST dedicate at least one and a half hours on either Saturday or Sunday each week to cleaning my room and doing the laundry during active term time. However, if I complete all the chores in less time, I am not required to spend the full 1.5 hours. If, under exceptional circumstances, I cannot do the chores, I MUST postpone them to the first available day of the following week. A **third-degree breach**.

### 6.6 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



## 7 Long-Term Obligations

### 7.1 Entrepreneurial Practice

I MUST test at least one startup idea every six months. Each idea MUST be pursued with sufficient effort to determine within that period whether it gains traction or fails. If it gains traction, I continue with it beyond the six-month period, and the six-month requirement is suspended until the project reaches a natural conclusion or is discontinued. A **second-degree breach**.

If the idea fails, I MUST amend this section within one calendar week of the date of failure to log the result, and the six-month cycle recommences from the date of such amendment. A **third-degree breach**.

Nº	Description	End Result	Start Date	End Date
1	AI calendar application from software engineering coursework, endorsed by the Director of Studies.	To be determined	01/09/2025	[01/03/2026]

Table 1: Startup Idea Testing Log

### 7.2 Driving

I MUST submit documents to get a provisional driving licence by the end of January 2026. Furthermore, I MUST spend at least one hour watching new driving lessons every calendar week, unless there are no new lessons left to watch. A **third-degree breach**.

I am REQUIRED to complete at least one examination ticket every day until I pass the exam. It is acceptable to carry over and accumulate multiple tickets in one day under exceptional circumstances. A **fourth-degree breach**.

## 8 Meta Obligations

### 8.1 Regular Updates

The CCC MUST receive either a **minor update**—an update that changes the second digit and resets the third one (e.g., v4.1.1 to v4.2)—or a **major update**—an update that changes the first digit and resets the rest (e.g., v4.1.1 to v5.0)—at least once per calendar month. If this requirement is not met in a given month, the outstanding number of required updates is carried over to the following month. Exceptional circumstances do NOT apply. A **second-degree breach**.

Note that the new version MUST be signed by no later than the end of the next day (as defined in Section 3.1) after publication, but in practice it should be signed as soon as possible. A **fourth-degree breach** for every additional day past the deadline.

### 8.2 Sections To Address

This section lists problematic sections of the CCC that MUST be addressed no later than the next minor or major update. Failing to address all of them in time constitutes a **third-degree breach**.

1. Remove or permanentise the provisional clause in Section 6.1.
2. Decide whether The Paragon (Section 1) is meaningful as a concept and is worth keeping.
3. Consider if the last stipulation of Section 4.1.1 should be enforceable.
4. Consider if the first redacted section should be made stricter.
5. Consider adding a section on meeting deadlines—the closer the deadline, the greater the potential penalty.

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Signature

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Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

# The 200-Hour Challenge

For this challenge, I am REQUIRED to complete 200 “**designated hours**” over a 14-day period that commences on the day following the date on which this annex is signed. “Designated hours” is an umbrella term that includes any kind of work, as defined in Section 6.2; enriching activities—such as reading and structured intellectual discussions; training sessions (Section 4.1); and other activities of similar nature.

The number of designated hours per day amounts to approximately 14 hours and 20 minutes, with no allowance for weekends. In order to maintain compliance, I am strongly encouraged to strictly adhere to the following schedule:

- 5:30 AM: **Morning awakening**
- 6:00 AM – 7:10 AM: **Training session**
- 8:20 AM – 8:30 PM: **Office hours**
- 9:15 PM – 10:15 PM: **Reading**
- 10:15 PM – 10:30 PM: **Falling asleep**

Note that during office hours at least eight hours have to qualify as “**focused work**”—time actively dedicated to achieving a specific productive goal.

The challenge MAY be terminated in the case of a serious force majeure event, including but not limited to a serious illness or injury that prevents me from attending the office, renders me incapable of performing at least five hours of focused work despite my best efforts, or completely prevents me from undertaking training sessions. However, this does not apply to minor injuries that restrict only certain physical activities—in which case the intensity of training may be reduced accordingly and such restricted activities may be avoided—or to mild illnesses that do not prevent me from attending the office and achieving the required number of focused hours. Any breach of the rules set out above in circumstances other than those expressly permitted constitutes a **first-degree breach**.

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Signature

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Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

# Provisional Modifications

This annex is meant to contain handwritten provisional modifications to the CCC. Each modification (or a clearly indicated block of modifications) must have a signature next to it in order to take effect. Thereafter, the handwritten modification(s) cannot be altered or deleted from the annex and are treated as a constituent part of the CCC, subject to all rules, penalties and other provisions. However, a modification can be deleted or altered if it has reached its expiration date that could have been specified either implicitly or explicitly.

It is encouraged to employ this annex to define short-term obligations that become inactive upon reaching their predefined expiration date. Crucially, these short-term obligations, as well as any other modifications, MUST NOT be used to exploit or circumvent the system. A **second-degree breach**.

All signed modifications, with the exception of short-term obligations, MUST be incorporated into the main body of the CCC in the subsequent version. While the form or specific details of modifications may be adjusted as necessary, their essence MUST remain unchanged. In rare cases, if a modification is found to be significantly flawed or irrelevant (though not originally intended as such), it may be omitted from the subsequent version. The only exception to this stipulation is a **patch update**—an update involving only small changes that alters only the third digit of the version (e.g., v4.0.3 to v4.0.4)—in which case the modifications MUST either be copied over to the next version in handwritten form within 24 hours of signing the document or integrated into the main body. A **fourth-degree breach**.





