

1.
 - a. How do each of us determine right or wrong?
 - b. How does society establish and then enforce right vs wrong
 - c. Can unethical be legal?, can moral be illegal?, etc.
2. Can an individual's sense of right and wrong change over time?, can society's?
 - a. Give an example in which u have changed
 - b. Give an example in which society has changed

Although Right and Wrong are ultimately terms defined at an individual level, the social context in which one is raised clearly has an impact in how one might define them. There are a variety of factors that determine what a society sees as right versus wrong and oftentimes they don't agree with each other. Both the society and the individual are dynamic and thus their perspectives can change dramatically over the course of time.

One of the most commonly taught social constructs taught to children is the concept of treating others as one would like to be treated. In much of the western world this is called "the golden rule" but in other cultures there are often different wordings and names for a very similar concept. Regardless, having a shared, named mantra with which to follow goes on to impact the individual in a significant way. However this does not mean that it's always followed, especially when there is wrongdoing or suspected/potential wrongdoing such as in the case of recent events and societal issues. Additional sources of morals can come from religions, whether the individual practices or simply interacts with people who do, which can also often contradict the golden rule such as for example enforcing dietary restrictions, clothing, sexual behavior, etc. which are different from those who do not practice.

In the US we use several sources such as the legal system and the media to establish right vs wrong. However these systems can often contradict themselves and each other. For example the portrayal of drugs positively or at least not in a negative light in the media in spite of the legal system and society as a whole giving harsh penalties to their use or different, low-quality news sources giving dramatically different views on issues in order to establish their own interpretations of morality.

As mentioned, right vs wrong is enforced by society in several ways, among which are the legal system (ie - performing an action will result in a criminal penalty) and social pressure (ie - performing an action will result in your peers thinking about you negatively). However, as mentioned, these systems - including the enforcement vs the common belief vs the establishment - do not always agree with each other.

Society is dynamic and changing with the events of our time. If you asked people about security and privacy invasions before 9/11 they would likely overwhelmingly oppose it, versus in a post 9/11 society, we accepted significant violations of privacy in the name of safety and as our collective memory of 9/11 fades we become progressively more opposed to the idea of this

invasion. For me personally I at one point in time very strongly adhered to copyright and believed that one should always protect their intellectual property but now I've seen the benefits of free-software and the evil of things like the DMCA and thus I care much less about copyright and make my code public as a result.