**CSC 405**  \*\***bold means important and in our note**

**Ethics**

**It is a moral principle that governs a person’s behaviour or the conducting of an activity.**

**It can also be defined as rules of personal behaviour accepted by the society.**

It is concerned with distinguishing between good and evil.

Ethics is putting principles into action. It is concerned with how a moral person behaves.

Morality: It is a way in which we judge people as good or bad, right or wrong. It is a system to regulate our behaviour.

**Ethical system: A set of ethical principles.**

**Work place ethics: It means conforming to accepted professional standards of conduct.**

Why is ethics not universal? \*\*Past question

Ethics is not universal because some rules or believes aren’t always accepted everywhere.

It is not universal because of difference in believes.

Ex. In Russia, they have spots in schools where students are allowed to smoke because of the cold weather. Ethics has no issues with public smoking over there, but it is ethically wrong in some other places U.S to smoke in school.

A lecturer has a sick wife and cannot afford the bill. He has no help but a student doing well offered to foot the bill. Is it ethically right to accept used, and give reasons?

**Pillars of Characters in the workplace**

1. **Trustworthiness:** It has 4 dimensions

a. **Honesty**: This involves what you say and do not say and how you act.

b. **Integrity**: Integrity means

I. Being Undivided

ii. Consistent

iii. Knowing who you are and what you value.

c. **Reliability**: Making reasonable effort to fulfil a commitment.

Reliable worker should

I. Avoid bad-faithful excuses.

ii. Avoid unclear commitments

iii. Avoid unwise commitments.

d. **Loyalty**: Responsibility to promote the interest of certain people, organization or affiliation. You should be able to keep some information confidential. It also involves avoiding conflicting interest.

2. **Respect:** It is a positive feeling of admiration for a person or other entities.

It prohibits violence, intimidation, manipulation and exploitation.

It recognizes dignity and the rights to make reformed choices.

It reflects tolerance and acceptance.

3. **Responsibility**:

I. It means being in charge of your choices

ii. Being accountable for what you say and who you are.

iii. Doing your best, being diligent, reliable, careful, prepared and informed.

iv. Finishing what you start.

v. Looking for ways to do your work better.

vi. Exercising self-restraint.

4. **Fairness**: This involves equality, impartiality, openness and due process.

It implies following a balanced standard of justice without letting one’s feeling interfere.

5. **Caring**: It means being concerned about the welfare of others. Ethics is a mainly about good relations with others.

6. **Citizenship**: Things we do that define how we should behave as part of a larger community.

**Computer ethics** is the application of **moral principles** **to** the use of **computer** and internet

**MORAL CODES**

Although different cultures have different codes, and we have established that morality is relative to time, there have been some timeless and culture-free (moral) codes that have been nearly universally observed. Such codes include this partial list created by the astronomer Sagan

* The Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”
* The Silver Rule: “Do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you.”
* The Bronze Rule: “Repay kindness with kindness.”
* The Iron Rule: “Do unto others as you like, before they do it unto you.”
* The Tin Rule: “Pay homage to those above you and intimidate those below you.”
* The Nepotism Rule: “Give precedence in all things to close relatives, and do as you like to others.”

**Law vs Ethics**

**Law is a system of rules that are created and enforced through social or governmental institutions to regulate behaviours.**

**Difference between Ethics and Law**

1. Law applies to everyone but ethics is personal choice.

2. If two laws conflict, Judicial process determines which law takes precedence while if two principles conflict, there are no external arbiter.

3. Law is described by formal, written laws while ethics is described by unwritten principles.

4. Law is interpreted by court while ethics is interpreted by individuals.

5. Law is established by legislature, representing everyone while ethics is presented by philosophers, religious and professional body.

Ethical Theories

Ethical theory is a means by which to reflect on a moral question, come to conclusion and defend the conclusion against object.

**Making and justifying an ethical choice \*\*\*Important (Exam related)**

1. **Understanding the situation:** There is need to understand the fact of the situation, ask question, attempt to find out if there are any relevant causes that have not been considered.
2. **Knowing several theories of ethical reasoning:** To make ethical choices, it is necessary to know those choices to be justified.
3. **List the ethical principles involved:** There is need to identify the different philosophies that could be applied with the case being considered.
4. **Determine what principles outweigh others:** This is subjective evaluation. It involves extending a principle to a logical conclusion or determining cases in which one principle clearly supersedes another.

**Some ethical theories**

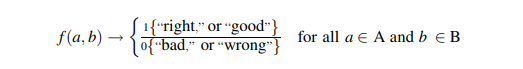
1. **Consequentialism**: In this, human actions are judged based on good or bad, right or wrong, depending on the result of such action.

Types of consequentialism theory

* 1. **Egoism**: This theory puts an individual’s interest and happiness above everything else. In egoism, any action is considered good as long as it maximizes individual overall happiness.
     1. Ethical egoism: How people are to behave when they pursue their own interests.
     2. Psychological egoism: Describes how people actually behave.
  2. **Utilitarianism**: This means putting the group’s interest and happiness above those of an individual, for the good of many. Thus, an action is good if it benefits the maximum number of people.
     1. Act utilitarianism: Tells one to consider the consequences of all actions before choosing the one with the best overall advantage.
     2. Rule utilitarianism: Tells one to obey the rules that bring the maximum happiness to the greatest number of people.
  3. **Altruism:** An action that is right if the consequences of that action is favourable to all except the actor.

1. **Deontology**: It doesn’t concern itself with the consequence of the action but rather with the will of the action. An act is considered good if the individual had a good reason to do so. We know that killing is bad but if it’s an armed intruder, your action is considered good.
2. Relativism: In this, right and wrong is based on society, culture and an individual.
3. Hedonism: It acts on pleasure. It maximizes pleasure or pain
4. Emotivism: Has to do with emotions and how people feel.
5. Human nature: It is based on human capabilities.

A pinch of violence:





**Intellectual Property (IP)**

**It is any product of the human reasoning that one can claim ownership to.**

**These products of human reasoning can be music, artwork, literature, technology, invention. etc.**

Or

It is any product from human reasoning that the law protects from unauthorized use by others.

**There are 4 ways in which the law protects their IP, these are**

1. **Trademark**
2. **Trade secret**
3. **Patents**
4. **Copyright**

**Trademarks**

This is a symbol, name, design or any label that is used to identify a product or service.

A trademark is a product or service-identifying label.

It is a mark that attempts to distinguish a service or a product in the minds of the consumers.

A mark or symbol that uniquely identifies a product from another.

Symbols designated for trademark

® - means registered trademark

SM – means unregistered service mark

TM – means unregistered trademark

Trademark is valid for 10 years in the US. Extension can be granted for another 10 years.

**Trade Secret**

It is any valuable business information that is not generally known and is subject to confidentiality.

It is any valuable commercial information that provides a business with an advantage over competitions who do not have that information.

Ex. The formula for Coca-Cola is a trade secret.

**Patent**

**It is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which excludes others from making, using or selling an invention for a limited amount of time.**

From CSC 333

“A patent is a legal title granting its holder the exclusive right to make use of an invention for a limited area and time by stopping others from, among other things, making, using or selling it without authorization...a patent can be bought, sold, licensed or mortgaged.”

**What is patentable?**

1. First requirement
2. A process
3. Manufacture- All products that are not machines
4. Machine
5. Second requirement

Novelty: New, not used, known or published somewhere.

Non-obviousness: It should not be something a person with ordinary skills can do

Disclosure: There must be adequate disclosure of the product. This helps the patent officer in its review to approve your claim to patent.

Utility: It should be able to serve a basic minimum useful purpose to the public without being a danger or illegal to the public.

Application for a Patent In many countries

The process of obtaining a patent begins with the filing of an application with the patent office. As we already discussed, the application must give a clear and detailed disclosure of the invention or discovery including its workings, experiments made, data used, results obtained, safety record, and effectiveness if used properly. Its weaknesses, if observed, and all pertinent information that may be required if the patent office is to carry out a similar experiment must also be submitted.

**Duration of a Patent**

After the review process is completed—and this may take some time depending on the disclosure provided and the type of invention or discovery—**the patent is then issued to the applicant for the invention and only for that invention, not including its variations and derivatives**. The protection must **last for a number of years**— **17 years in the USA**. During this time period, the patent law protects the inventor or discoverer from competition from others in the manufacture, use, and sale of the invention or discovery

**The patent law does not protect ideas, but only the process of carrying out an idea.**

**Patent Infringement:** When a third party without authorisation from the patent officials uses or sells a patented invention.

**Copyrights**

Copyright is a right.

It is legal right that grants a creator of an original work exclusive rights to its use and distribution usually for a limited time.

The duration of copyright is usually the lifespan of the author plus 80 to 100 years after. In USA it lasts 75 years after issuance for work published before 1978. Unpublished works expired on 31, December 2002. For work after 1978, it lasts the authors lifetime plus 50 years. In the case of more than one author, lifespan of the longest living author plus 50 years.

