1)Explain git ignore?

.gitignore is a special file used in Git to **tell Git which files or folders it should ignore** in a project.

These ignored files:

* Will **not be tracked** by Git
* Will **not be added** to the staging area
* Will **not be committed or pushed** to a remote repository like GitLab or GitHub

We use .gitignore to avoid tracking:

* Temporary or **log files** (e.g., .log, .tmp)
* **Build outputs** (e.g., dist/, target/)
* **System-generated files** (e.g., .DS\_Store, Thumbs.db)
* IDE or editor config files (e.g., .vscode/, \*.sublime-workspace)
* **Sensitive files** like .env containing credentials

This keeps the Git repository **clean**, **secure**, and **lightweight**.

2)Explain how to ignore unwanted files using git ignore?

**Step 1: Create a .gitignore file**

In the root directory of your Git project, create a file named .gitignore:

touch .gitignore

Or use an editor:

notepad .gitignore

**Step 2: Add Patterns to Ignore Files/Folders**

Inside the .gitignore file, add file patterns you want to ignore.

**Example:**

\*.log # Ignores all .log files (e.g., error.log, debug.log)

log/ # Ignores any folder named log

\*.tmp # Ignores all .tmp files

.env # Ignores environment variable files

node\_modules/ # Ignores the node\_modules folder (common in JS projects)

**Step 3: Save and Confirm Ignore Works**

git status

* Ignored files/folders should **not appear** in the list.
* To verify manually:

git check-ignore -v filename

**Example from Lab**

In this lab, we created:

* A file error.log
* A folder log/

And added the following to .gitignore:

\*.log

log/

This configuration successfully ignored both the .log file and the folder from being tracked or pushed to GitLab.

The .gitignore file is essential in any Git project to avoid committing unwanted files. It improves:

* Project cleanliness
* Security (by avoiding sensitive files)
* Efficiency (by ignoring large or unnecessary folders)