

# Lesson on Ethical Frameworks

## Introduction

**Ethical frameworks provide structured approaches to evaluating moral questions and guiding decision-making. Understanding these frameworks is essential for navigating complex ethical dilemmas in various fields such as business, medicine, and personal relationships.**

## Key Ethical Frameworks

### 1. Consequentialism

- Definition: Evaluates the morality of actions based on their outcomes.
- Key Principle: The best action is the one that maximizes positive consequences or utility.
- Example: Utilitarianism, a form of consequentialism, suggests that actions are right if they promote happiness for the greatest number.

### 2. Deontology

- Definition: Focuses on rules and duties rather than outcomes.
- Key Principle: Some actions are inherently right or wrong, regardless of their consequences.
- Example: Kantian ethics emphasizes acting according to maxims that can be universalized, meaning everyone should be able to act in the same way without contradiction.

### 3. Virtue Ethics

- Definition: Centers on the character and virtues of the moral agent rather than specific actions.
- Key Principle: Ethical behavior stems from a person's character and the pursuit of moral virtues (like courage, honesty, and compassion).
- Example: Aristotle's concept of achieving eudaimonia, or a flourishing life, through the cultivation of virtues.

### 4. Social Contract Theory

- Definition: Suggests that moral and political obligations are dependent on a contract or agreement among individuals.
- Key Principle: Individuals consent, either explicitly or implicitly, to surrender

some freedoms in exchange for social order and protection of rights.

- Example: The philosophies of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau illustrate different views on the social contract.

## 5. Care Ethics

- Definition: Emphasizes interpersonal relationships and the importance of care as a moral action.

- Key Principle: Ethical decision-making should consider the needs and well-being of individuals in relational contexts.

- Example: This approach is often contrasted with more traditional frameworks that prioritize abstract principles over personal relationships.

## Application of Ethical Frameworks

1. Case Studies: Analyzing real-world scenarios can illustrate how different frameworks lead to varying conclusions.

- Example: In a medical setting, a consequentialist approach might prioritize patient outcomes, while a deontological approach might prioritize informed consent.

2. Decision-Making: Frameworks can guide personal and organizational decisions.

- Example: A business faced with ethical dilemmas (like environmental impact) might weigh the long-term benefits of sustainability (consequentialism) against its duty to shareholders (deontology).

3. Discussion and Debate: Engaging with others about ethical dilemmas can enhance understanding and application of these frameworks.

Also study  

## Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is commonly defined as a business model in which companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders instead of only considering economic profits.

On my first try for the test I really didn't any questions related to this, but every test will be different so it's good to know👁👁. Kantian deontology is about following moral principles and fulfilling duties, respecting others' autonomy, and considering whether our actions could be universalized.

# Morals and ethics

## What is Morals and Ethics

- **Morals** refer to personal principles of right and wrong. They are individual beliefs that guide our behavior in various situations, often derived from cultural, religious, or personal experiences. Morals tend to be shaped by societal norms, upbringing, and personal convictions.
- **Ethics**, on the other hand, refers to the systematic study of what is right and wrong. It involves critical thinking about morality and focuses on rules and guidelines that apply universally, often in specific professions (e.g., medical ethics, business ethics).

*In essence, morals are personal, while ethics are more structured and often apply to groups or societies.*

## 2. Sources of Morals

- **Cultural Influence:** Morals vary across cultures, shaped by traditions, laws, and shared beliefs. What is considered moral in one culture might not be in another.
- **Religious Teachings:** Many people's morals are deeply influenced by their religious beliefs, which often provide a set of rules for behavior (e.g., the Ten Commandments in Christianity).
- **Personal Experience:** Individual experiences shape one's moral code. These experiences can be lessons learned from family, community, or personal reflection.

## 3. Morals in Ethical Theories

- **Deontology (Duty-Based Ethics):** This theory emphasizes that morality comes from following a set of rules or duties. For example, it might be considered immoral to lie, regardless of the consequences, because lying violates a moral duty.
- **Utilitarianism (Consequentialism):** Utilitarianism focuses on the outcomes of actions, where moral actions are those that maximize overall happiness or reduce

suffering. In this view, lying could be moral if it leads to a greater good.

- **Virtue Ethics:** Virtue ethics emphasizes the importance of developing good character traits (virtues) like honesty, courage, and compassion. Morality, in this case, is tied to becoming a virtuous person rather than following rules or focusing on outcomes.

## 4. Moral Dilemmas

Moral dilemmas occur when there is a conflict between moral principles, where no clear “right” choice is apparent. For example:

- **Trolley Problem:** A classic moral dilemma that questions whether it's better to actively cause harm (divert a trolley to end one person) or passively allow harm to happen (letting the trolley end five people).

## 5. Role of Morals in Ethics

- **Guiding Behavior:** Morals serve as a foundation for ethical decision-making. They influence how individuals assess right from wrong in both personal and professional settings.

- **Ethical Codes:** Many professions (e.g., doctors, lawyers, engineers) have ethical codes that reflect societal or group-wide moral standards. These codes are designed to guide professionals in making decisions that benefit society or protect individuals.

## 6. Morals vs. Laws

While morals are personal or societal beliefs about right and wrong, laws are formalized rules enforced by governments. Something can be legal but still considered immoral by certain individuals or groups (e.g., tax loopholes). Similarly, some actions might be considered moral but illegal (e.g., civil disobedience in protest of unjust laws).

## 7. Developing Moral Awareness

- **Critical Thinking:** In ethics, developing moral awareness involves understanding different perspectives, questioning personal beliefs, and considering the impact of one's actions on others.

- **Moral Relativism vs. Universalism:**

- Moral relativism suggests that morals are subjective and vary based

on cultural or individual perspectives.

• Moral universalism, on the other hand, argues that there are objective moral truths that apply to all people, regardless of context.

## 8. Importance of Morals in Ethics

- Trust and Integrity: Adhering to moral principles fosters trust and integrity, which are crucial in both personal relationships and professional settings.
- Societal Harmony: Shared moral values help create a sense of community and societal harmony by ensuring that people's actions align with accepted norms of behavior.
- Moral Leadership: Leaders who exemplify strong moral principles can inspire others and cultivate a culture of ethics in their organizations or societies.



This section right here is also important for guidance because The OA exam has scenario base questions and you have to apply what could possibly be right also try to rule out what could be wrong to get an answer?

I will give an example on how you can decide the correct choice. There will be some questions similar to the scenario on the test.

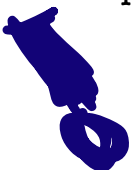
### Scenario

You are a manager at an IT company, and your team is working on a project involving user data. One of your employees notices a vulnerability in your company's software that could potentially expose thousands of users' personal information. You now have a choice:

Disclose the vulnerability to users and fix it immediately, which will lead to negative press, financial loss, and trust issues in the short term.

**Or**

Delay disclosure for a few weeks, quietly fix the issue during the next patch, and hope no data is leaked in the meantime.



Think about it

Let's see how these Framework Applies to the scenario above

## 1. Morals (Based on principles or societal norms)

- Moral perspective: It is your duty to immediately disclose the vulnerability because honesty is a societal expectation, and users have the right to know their data is at risk.
- Reasoning: From a moral standpoint, lying by (failing to inform users) is inherently wrong, regardless of the consequences. Trust and transparency with users are non-negotiable.

## 2. Virtue Ethics (Character and virtues as a guide)

- Virtuous response: A person guided by virtues like honesty, integrity, and responsibility would disclose the issue. Doing the right thing builds a character of trustworthiness, both personally and professionally.
- Reasoning: Virtue ethics focuses on what a "good person" would do. If your goal is to become someone who embodies **integrity**, you disclose the vulnerability, even if it hurts in the short term.

## 3. Consequentialism (Focus on the outcomes)

Response based on outcomes: You might choose to delay disclosure if you believe that, by doing so, the company can avoid public panic and financial harm. This way, you aim to quietly fix the issue without anyone being harmed.

- Reasoning: A consequentialist evaluates the outcomes—if delaying disclosure avoids harm to both the company and users (assuming the data is not breached), it might be seen as the better option.



#### 4. Utilitarianism (Maximizing the greatest good)

- Utilitarian response: You would likely disclose the vulnerability immediately. Though the company suffers some short-term harm, the action benefits the most people (users) by giving them the chance to protect their data.
- Reasoning: Utilitarianism seeks to maximize the overall happiness or minimize harm. Informing users allows them to act, even if it negatively impacts the company's reputation.

#### Conclusion

- **Morals and virtue ethics lean toward immediate disclosure, focusing on honesty, integrity, and doing the right thing regardless of outcomes.**
- **Consequentialism could justify delaying disclosure if it leads to better outcomes.**
- **Utilitarianism aligns with disclosure to benefit the most people, even at the company's expense.**



For each question you may have really think about each answer rule out the least likely answer and some of the of the questions are direct, but the answers can be completely off of what is being asked, especially this section

Questions about Integrity in ethics From my knowledge, I only remember a few, but here is the description that you can use to apply to what you know, **refers to adherence to moral and ethical principles, consistency of actions, values, methods, measures, and outcomes. It is about being honest, trustworthy, and maintaining a strong moral conviction even in challenging situations. Integrity involves not only doing the right thing when it's easy but also standing by one's values even when faced with pressure or temptation.**

## Scenario

You are the CEO of a large textile company. A factory in another country supplies your company with affordable clothing, but you discover that the factory is using child labor. The factory is essential to your supply chain, and cutting ties with it will increase production costs by 30%, causing financial hardship for the company and its shareholders.

Now decide:

1. Stop working with the factory immediately to uphold ethical standards, even if it causes financial losses.
2. Continue the partnership quietly to protect profits, jobs, and shareholder value, but risk future backlash if the truth comes out.
3. Implement gradual changes in the factory over time to eliminate child labor without immediate disruption.

### 1. Deontology (Duty-based ethics)

- Response: According to deontology, the right action is to immediately stop working with the factory because using child labor is inherently unethical, regardless of the consequences.
- Reasoning: Deontology focuses on following moral rules and duties. Since employing children in harmful conditions violates human rights, you have a moral obligation to cut ties, even if it causes financial losses. The focus here is on doing what is right rather



than what is beneficial.

## 2. Realism (Culture based , interest-based ethics)

- Response: A realist approach would advise continuing the partnership, but perhaps implementing gradual reforms. The goal is to protect the company's interests—maintaining profits, shareholder value, and jobs—while minimizing any potential fallout.

- Reasoning: Realism acknowledges that the world is not perfect, and decisions must be made based on practical realities. The company exists to maximize profit and ensure survival, so the CEO might prioritize self-interest over idealistic moral principles. This approach also reflects a belief that ethical compromises are sometimes necessary.

## 3. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- Response: CSR would push for ending the partnership with the factory while also finding an ethical alternative supplier or supporting programs to help children in that region.

- Reasoning: CSR emphasizes that companies have a duty to society, not just to shareholders. Beyond making profits, the company should contribute positively to the communities it operates in. This means aligning business practices with ethical and sustainable standards, even if it leads to short-term financial loss. CSR also aims to enhance the company's reputation, showing consumers and stakeholders that it takes responsibility for social issues.

## What are the possible Frameworks conclusions?

- Deontology: Stop working with the factory immediately because using child labor is inherently wrong, regardless of the business consequences.

- Realism: Continue the partnership while gradually making improvements, balancing profits and ethical concerns pragmatically.

- CSR: End the partnership and invest in solutions that align with the company's commitment to ethical practices and social impact.

**Again remember** These frameworks highlight different ways of thinking:

- Deontology focuses on moral principles.

- Realism is pragmatic (viewing from a cultural aspect) and concerned with business interests.
- CSR seeks to balance profits with positive societal contributions.

***This right here pretty much covers the first part of the lesson and for this section when you get asked a question on your PA and OA just really focus on the answers of what can potentially be right and remember to apply what you know on these subjects. Really read the questions because they can be direct or indirect questions with direct and indirect answers. This course is tricky.***

***Note if you get a question such as ::***

A city is facing a severe budget crisis and must decide how to allocate its limited funds. The options are to increase funding for public transportation, which would benefit the majority of lower-income residents, or to invest in a luxury park that would primarily serve wealthier citizens but also provide the greater good to the entire community.

On hand, you will think of utilitarianism, why because the greater good is often associated in terms with utilitarianism

Remember to look for the key terms in the questions such as the greater good and also look at the scenario of the questions and apply to each answer to see if it could be correct. For some reason virtue ethics throws me off I always get it mixed up with the others, especially morals so pay close attention to morals and study more. make sure you pay close attention.

Here is another example

**Note this is not the best example I'm trying to make it tricky like the OA but here we go**

Katy is a software developer working for a cybersecurity firm. One day, she discovers that the company's product has a flaw that leaves customers' sensitive data vulnerable to hackers. She brings the issue to her manager, but he dismisses her concerns, saying that fixing the flaw would delay an upcoming product release and result in financial losses. He also implies that raising the issue further could harm her career within the company.

- Option 1: Stay silent, avoid conflict with her manager, and let the product release go forward as planned.
- Option 2: Escalate the issue to higher management or an external authority, even though it may damage her career prospects and disrupt the company's profits.

On the OA it would mostly give you a list of answers such as:

Virtue ethics

Deontology

utilitarianism

Morals

Consequentialism

But from the two options above, think about the outcome and what is it asking you to do or should do how to do look for those types

She chooses to escalate the issue, she is acting with courage and integrity. This choice reflects the kind of person who prioritizes doing the right thing for the public good, even if it negatively impacts her career.

**If she wants to act according to right or wrong, what should she do? What would guide her decision in this situation, and how might it shape her actions?**

You can roll out deontology because it wasn't a duty. Consequentialism can also be ruled out. The question doesn't reflect. Her choosing good or bad, right or wrong.

virtue ethics, the goal is to act in alignment with virtues that build good character. Although. Utilitarianism could also be correct in this scenario too but there's nothing relating or asking about the greater good or the best benefit. This question is simply showing her integrity once she understands the outcome to. She reports it to her manager. These things will revolve around the willingness to do so. virtue ethics would be correct. Morals can also be tricky, but morals refers to the belief and principles that guide in determining what is right or wrong.

There are questions like this so just be mindful and try to use your best judgment always look for details and phrases in the questions that could potentially produce or lead to an answer.

Forgot to mention supply chains sustainability

Supply chain sustainability is a component of CSR that focuses on developing and maintaining a supply chain that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Note: Also, know what the CSR goals are

Here is an example

A company called Eco is committed to sustainability throughout its supply chain, aiming to reduce environmental impact and promote ethical practices.

**Here are more terms to study**

## **Breach of Contract**

A breach of contract occurs when one party fails to fulfill their obligations as outlined in a legal agreement. This can happen in several ways:

- Non-performance: Not doing what was promised (e.g., failing to deliver goods).
- Delayed performance: Completing a task late.
- Partial performance: Only fulfilling part of the agreement.

When a breach occurs, the affected party may seek remedies, such as damages (financial compensation) or specific performance (forcing the breaching party to fulfill their obligations).

## **Evaluation Benchmark**

An evaluation benchmark is a standard or point of reference used to measure and assess performance, effectiveness, or quality.

**Internal control** refers to the processes and procedures that organizations put in place to ensure:

1. Accuracy: Financial reporting and operations are correct.
2. Compliance: Adherence to laws and regulations.
3. Efficiency: Operations run smoothly and resources are used effectively.
4. Risk Management: Identification and mitigation of potential risks.

internal controls help organizations protect their assets, ensure reliable financial reporting, and promote operational efficiency.

Also know what **policies process and procedures** are just the definition part.

**IT professionalism** is something that could be studied. There are a few scenarios on the exam that are about IT professionalism.

Conflict of interest from my memory there is about maybe two questions that are scenario based and one was a direct question.

**A conflict of interest** is when an individual or organization has multiple interests or relationships that could potentially influence their decisions or actions in a way that is not in the best interest of one of those parties.

### **Unethical / Legal**

- Definition: Actions that are considered morally wrong or inappropriate but are not against the law.
- Example: A company might engage in aggressive marketing tactics that mislead customers. While this might be legal, it's considered unethical because it lacks honesty.

### **Unethical/ Illegal**

- Definition: Actions that are both morally wrong and against the law.
- Example: Embezzling funds from a company is both illegal (a crime) and unethical (breaching trust and honesty).

unethical but legal ,refers to actions that may not be illegal but are still morally questionable, while "unethical and illegal" refers to actions that violate both legal standards and ethical norms.



## Ethical/ Legal

- Definition: Actions that are both morally right and compliant with the law.
- Example: A company that treats its employees fairly, pays them on time, and follows all labor laws is acting both ethically and legally.

## Ethical/Illegal

- Definition: Actions that are considered morally right but violate the law.
- Example: Whistleblowing on illegal activities within a company may be seen as ethical (doing the right thing) but could be illegal if it violates confidentiality agreements.

ethical and legal means acting in a way that is both morally right and lawful, while "ethical but illegal" means acting in a morally right way that nonetheless breaks the law.

Last these are the five steps for ethical decision-making, which you will have to apply when you answer the questions on the OA and PA. There is no questions that I came across regarding this, but I didn't notice that some of the questions implemented these steps into their scenarios.

### Identify the problem

1. Determine what ethical issue or dilemma you are facing.

2. Gather Information

- Collect relevant facts, stakeholders involved, and any laws or policies that apply.

3. Consider the Options

- Think about the possible actions you can take and the potential consequences of each.

#### 4. Evaluate the Options

- Assess the options based on ethical principles, values, and the impact on everyone involved.

#### 5. Make a Decision

- Choose the option that aligns best with ethical standards and take action, while being prepared to explain your choice.

A **corporate ethics officer** or corporate compliance officer provides an organization with a vision and leadership in the area of business conduct. They are responsible for compliance insurance. Ethical procedures are in place, creating attaining an ethical culture, responsible for the knowledge and contact person and an ethical related issue.

**I would also take advantage of the D333 notes and PowerPoint.**