**Master II: Ethics and Deontology Teacher: KHELEF Embarka**

**TD 1 Introduction to Ethics**

1. **Reading Comprehension: Read the text Carefully then respond to the questions.**

**Ethics**, also called **moral philosophy**, is the [discipline](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discipline) concerned with what is morally good and bad and morally right and wrong. The term is also applied to any system or theory of [moral](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/moral) **values** or principles. The terms ethics and [*morality*](https://www.britannica.com/topic/morality) are closely related. It is now common to refer to [ethical](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ethical) judgments or to ethical principles where it once would have been more accurate to speak of moral judgments or moral principles. …

[Ethics](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Ethics) deals with such questions such as; how should we live? Shall we aim at [happiness](https://www.britannica.com/topic/happiness) or at knowledge, [**virtue**](https://www.britannica.com/topic/virtue-in-ethics), or the creation of beautiful objects? If we choose happiness, will it be our own or the happiness of all? And what of the more particular questions that face us: is it right to be dishonest in a good cause? Can we justify living in **opulence** while elsewhere in the world people are starving? Is going to war justified in cases where it is likely that innocent people will be killed? Is it wrong to [clone](https://www.britannica.com/science/clone-genetics) a [human being](https://www.britannica.com/topic/human-being) or to destroy human embryos in medical research? What are our obligations, if any, to the generations of humans who will come after us and to the nonhuman animals with whom we share the planet? Its subject consists of the fundamental issues of practical [decision making](https://www.britannica.com/topic/decision-making), and its major concerns include the nature of ultimate value and the standards by which human actions can be judged [right or wrong](https://www.britannica.com/topic/right-and-wrong).

Although ethics has always been viewed as a branch of philosophy, its all-embracing practical nature links it with many other areas of study, including [anthropology](https://www.britannica.com/science/anthropology), [biology](https://www.britannica.com/science/biology), [economics](https://www.britannica.com/topic/economics), [history](https://www.britannica.com/topic/historiography), [politics](https://www.britannica.com/topic/political-science), [sociology](https://www.britannica.com/topic/sociology), and [theology](https://www.britannica.com/topic/theology). Yet, ethics remains distinct from such [disciplines](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/disciplines) because it is not a matter of factual knowledge in the way that the sciences and other branches of inquiry are. Rather, it has to do with determining the nature of **normative theories** and applying these sets of principles to practical moral problems. …

Adapted from: https://www.britannica.com/topic/deontological-ethics

**Questions for Reflections:**

1. What is the main theme of the text?
2. What is the objective of the author?
3. What strategies does he adopt to reach this objective?
4. Give the main idea of each paragraph?
5. From the questions ethics raises, does it concern living humans only? Justify your answer.
6. Explain the underlined bold typed parts.
7. Give a title to the text.

**Task Three: Fill in each gap with one word so that the text makes sense.**

Traditionally, a more important link ……… 1…….. religion and [ethics](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ethics) was that religious teachings were thought to provide a reason for doing what is right. In its crudest form, the reason was that those ……… 2……….. obey the moral [law](https://www.britannica.com/topic/law) will be rewarded by an eternity of bliss while everyone ………… 3………….. roasts in hell. In more sophisticated versions, the motivation provided by religion was more inspirational and less blatantly self-interested. Whether in its crude …………4……….. its sophisticated version, or something in between, religion ……… 5……….. provide an answer to one of the great ………… 6………….. of ethics: “Why should I be moral?”. However, the answer provided by religion is not the only one available.

**Task Five: Reorder the following Ideas to discover another aspect of Ethics**

1. but the name of the philosophical study remains ethics.
2. Ethics also referred to particular philosophical theories of morality.
3. Ethics and morality are now used almost interchangeably in many contexts,
4. Later the term was applied to particular (and narrower) moral codes or value systems.
5. the latter being a more or less systematic set of beliefs,
6. Traditionally, ethics referred to the philosophical study of morality,
7. usually held in common by a group, about how people should live.

**Task Six:** In one paragraph, write a short summary of the passage.

**Task Seven: FURTHER RESEARCH**

**What are the main approaches to/ theories of ethics?**