



MARKS: 70

DATE:

TYPE: Written

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GRADE 12 LIFE ORIENTATION

Ethics in a Changing World CAT B Practice Paper 1 Marking Guidelines

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SECTION A SHORT QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

SOURCE 1

The Vital Role of Ethics in Society

Adapted for readability: Original by The Ethical Marketer (September 2025)

In today's fast-changing world, ethics is more important than ever. Every day, we face difficult choices that test our values and beliefs. Ethics is the study of what is right and wrong. It helps guide our actions and decisions in our personal lives, at school, and at work.

Modern society is shaped by globalisation and new technology. These changes have made ethical questions more complex. Because of this, we need a clear understanding of ethical principles. Learning about ethics is not only for classrooms. It helps us build a fair and equal society. Our actions affect not only us but also people around the world.

Issues such as climate change and social inequality show how important ethical decisions are. The choices we make today will affect future generations. For this reason, we must build a strong moral foundation. When we base our decisions on honesty and responsibility, we create a society that values fairness and respect for everyone.

The Role of Ethics in Politics and Government

Ethics is essential in politics and government. Leaders and policymakers must use ethical principles to guide their decisions. Citizens should expect their representatives to act in the public interest, not for personal gain. When leaders behave ethically, people are more likely to trust them.

Trust between citizens and government strengthens democracy. Ethical leaders make decisions that reflect the needs and values of the people they serve. Ethics also plays a role in campaign funding, lobbying, and open decision-making. Transparency and accountability help prevent corruption.

When we demand ethical behaviour from leaders, we support a political system built on integrity and public service. This makes it easier for citizens to take part in decisions that shape their communities.

The Impact of Ethics on Social Justice and Human Rights

Ethics is closely connected to social justice and human rights. A fair society is based on the belief that every person deserves dignity and respect, no matter their background. Many social justice movements are built on this belief.

Ethical principles such as fairness and equality help us challenge injustice. They encourage us to stand up for marginalised communities. Ethics also asks us to reflect on our own attitudes and biases. It teaches empathy and understanding for others.

When we discuss social justice, we must act in ways that promote inclusion and respect. By doing this, we help create a society where everyone has the chance to succeed and contribute.

Ethics in Technology and the Digital Age

Technology has changed the way we live, learn, and communicate. However, it also raises new ethical

questions. Artificial intelligence, data privacy, and social media all require careful thought. We must make sure that technology is developed and used responsibly.

Environmental protection is another area where ethics matters greatly. We have a moral duty to care for the planet and protect natural resources. Our choices about energy use, waste, and consumption affect the environment. By choosing sustainable practices, we help protect the Earth for future generations.

Ethics also connects to environmental justice. Often, poorer or marginalised communities suffer the most from pollution and environmental damage. A fair approach to conservation must consider their needs as well.

Conclusion: The Need for Ethical Leadership

Ethical leadership is not only about individual actions. It requires a change in how society thinks about decision-making. Ethics should be at the centre of our choices—in government, business, technology, and daily life.

As we face an uncertain future, we must stay committed to ethical values. Ethics has the power to guide positive change and improve the lives of people around the world. By choosing integrity, fairness, and responsibility, we can build a more just and equal global community.

[Source: The Ethical Marketer. 2025, 'The Vital Role of Ethics in Society.' [Online], Available: bit.ly/4t504QT (29 January 2026)]

1.1 Define what is meant by ethics, according to the source.

Ethics is the study of what is right and wrong ✓ and it guides people's actions and decisions in both personal and professional life. ✓

(2)

1.2 Give THREE reasons from the passage why ethics is important in today's society.

Ethics helps people deal with difficult choices that test their values and beliefs. ✓

Ethics is essential for creating a fair and equal society. ✓

When we base our decisions on honesty and responsibility, we create a society that values fairness and respect for everyone. ✓

(3)

1.3 Using an example from your school or community, explain how ethical behaviour could improve accountability and integrity in that situation.

If scholars at school choose not to cheat during exams or tests, they are showing ethical behaviour. When scholars act honestly, they accept responsibility for their own work instead of trying to get marks unfairly. This makes the school environment more fair for everyone and helps teachers trust their scholars.

(3)

1.4 According to the article, analyse how ethics contributes to strengthening democracy.

Ethics strengthens democracy by ensuring that leaders act in the public interest, not for personal gain. ✓
When leaders behave ethically, people are more likely to trust them. Trust between citizens and government strengthens democracy. ✓
When we demand ethical behaviour from leaders, we support a political system built on integrity and public service. ✓

(3)

- 1.5 Explain why ethical leadership is necessary to build a just and equitable society. Use evidence from the source to justify your answer.

Open answer which requires critical thinking and evaluation. Suggested answer could read: Ethical leadership promotes integrity and accountability which helps protect the rights and well-being of all individuals. ✓ The source explains that ethics is necessary for fairness, equality and social justice in society. ✓ Without ethical leaders, corruption and injustice may increase which prevents communities from thriving. ✓

(3)

[14 marks]

QUESTION 2

SOURCE 2

The Digital World Is Moving Fast – Tech Standards Must Catch Up

Adapted for readability. Original by Ayed Abdulhadi Al-Ruwaili, World Economic Forum (8 July 2025)

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to grow, smart cities track our movements, and computer systems help decide who gets job interviews, digital technology is becoming part of everyday life. The question is no longer whether digital technology shapes our lives, but how responsibly it does.

Despite these rapid changes, there is still no clear set of shared ethical standards to guide how digital technologies are created and used. We have built a digital world without clear rules to ensure safety, fairness, and long-term responsibility.

Tech Standards: Building Trust in a Digital Age

In many areas of life, we expect strict standards. Food must meet health regulations. Buildings must follow safety codes. Airplanes must pass careful inspections. Digital technology should be no different.

Standards serve two important purposes. First, they create common rules to ensure safety, openness, and accountability, especially when technologies operate across countries. Second, they build trust in the market. When governments, companies, and investors follow the same standards, it creates confidence and stability.

However, standards for digital technology are still limited and often created only after problems arise. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reports that fewer than 10% of new technologies are guided by international rules that address ethical or social risks.

Digital technologies are starting to shape more than just online searches. They influence economies, public services, and even basic human rights.

Why Tech Standards Must Be Inclusive and Flexible

Technology reflects human values. But whose values are being used?

Many global technology discussions are led by countries in the Global North. This raises concerns that other regions may not have a strong voice. As developing countries use AI in areas like farming, education, and healthcare, it is important that standards respect different cultures, economies, and political systems.

Another challenge is that creating official standards can take many years. Technology moves much faster than policy. Because of this, standards must be flexible and able to adapt quickly.

Three Steps Toward Responsible Digital Growth

1. Make Ethics Part of the Design Process

Ethics should not be added at the end of a project. Companies should think about human rights, social impact, and long-term risks from the beginning.

This means product teams should work with ethicists, community groups, and people who may be affected by the technology before launching new systems. When ethics guides design, problems can be prevented instead of fixed later.

2. Connect Standards to Incentives

Standards do not only protect the public; they also protect businesses. Investors can support companies that follow strong digital ethics by linking these standards to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals.

Governments can also encourage good practice. They can require companies to follow international standards before receiving public contracts, research funding, or regulatory approval.

3. Encourage Global Cooperation

No single country or company can manage digital risks alone. Global organisations such as the World Economic Forum, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and UNESCO can help countries work together.

Cooperation across borders ensures that digital standards are recognised worldwide and applied fairly in different sectors.

Conclusion: A Responsible Digital Future

Digital technologies are beginning to shape economies, public services, and individual rights. To manage this responsibly, we need standards that are ethical, widely accepted, and prepared for future changes.

Ethical design should not slow down innovation. Instead, it should be the foundation of innovation. We must choose whether to build digital technology with care and inclusion or risk losing public trust.

The need for action is urgent. Now is the time to ensure that technology serves society in a fair and responsible way.

[Source: Al-Ruwaili, *World Economic Forum*. (2025) 'The digital world is accelerating and it's time for tech standards to catch up.' [Online], Available: bit.ly/4a1cVut (29 January 2026)]

2.1 Explain what the writer means when he says digital technology must shape our lives responsibly.

The writer means that digital technology such as AI must be used and governed in a way that is safe, fair and accountable. ✓

Technology should benefit society without causing harm to people's rights or well-being. ✓
(2)

2.2 Give TWO reasons why shared ethical technology standards are important, according to the source.

Ethical tech standards ensure safety, transparency and accountability when technologies are developed and used. ✓

They build trust and market confidence by aligning governments, companies and investors around shared expectations. ✓

(2)

2.3 Using an example from your own life or community, explain how a lack of ethical technology standards could negatively affect people.

If schools use online marking systems or AI tools to grade assignments without proper ethical guidelines, the system could make mistakes or be biased. For example, it might mark certain answers incorrectly or favour a particular writing style, which could unfairly affect some scholars' results. This could cause stress, frustration and mistrust among scholars, especially if they feel they are being judged unfairly by technology.

(3)

- 2.4 Analyse why the writer believes tech standards must be inclusive and not dominated only by the Global North.

The writer argues that technology is shaped by values, so standards must represent diverse cultures, economies and political systems. ✓

If only the Global North dominates, other regions may not have a strong voice. ✓

Inclusive standards will ensure developing countries can use AI ethically in areas such as education, farming and public health. ✓

(3)

- 2.5 Do you think 'Ethical design should not slow down innovation [but] should be the foundation of innovation.'? Refer to the source in your response.

Open answer which scholars can answer in a variety of ways. Suggested answer could read:

Ethical design should be the foundation of innovation without slowing down innovation. ✓

The source shows that if we build digital technology with care and inclusion, then technology will serve society in a fair and responsible way. ✓

If innovation ignores ethics, then public trust will be lost and technology could harm society instead of helping it. ✓

(3)

[13 marks]

QUESTION 3

SOURCE 3



[Source: The Mandarin. 'Ethics in Action'. [Online], Available: bit.ly/EthicsAction (29 January 2026)]

3.1 Evaluate the meaning of the quote provided in the source above.

The quote refers to the fact that real change happens when ordinary people behave ethically instead of waiting for others to act first. ✓

(1)

3.2 How could you apply the meaning of this quote to your own life and community?

It suggests that individuals should set an example through values such as honesty, respect and responsibility. ✓ One could apply this in a variety of ways, so look for critical thinking and application. Suggested answer: I can apply this by making ethical choices in my school or community, such as treating others fairly and standing up against wrongdoing. ✓

(2)

[3 marks]

ASSESSMENT GRID SECTION A

Question	Remembering (1)	Understanding (2)	Applying (3)	Analysing (4)	Evaluating (5)	Creating (6)
1.1		2				
1.2		3				
1.3			3			
1.4				3		
1.5					3	
2.1		2				
2.2		2				
2.3			3			
2.4		1		2		
2.5		1			2	
3.1			1	1	1	
Total	18			12		

SECTION B

LIFE ORIENTATION ESSAY QUESTION

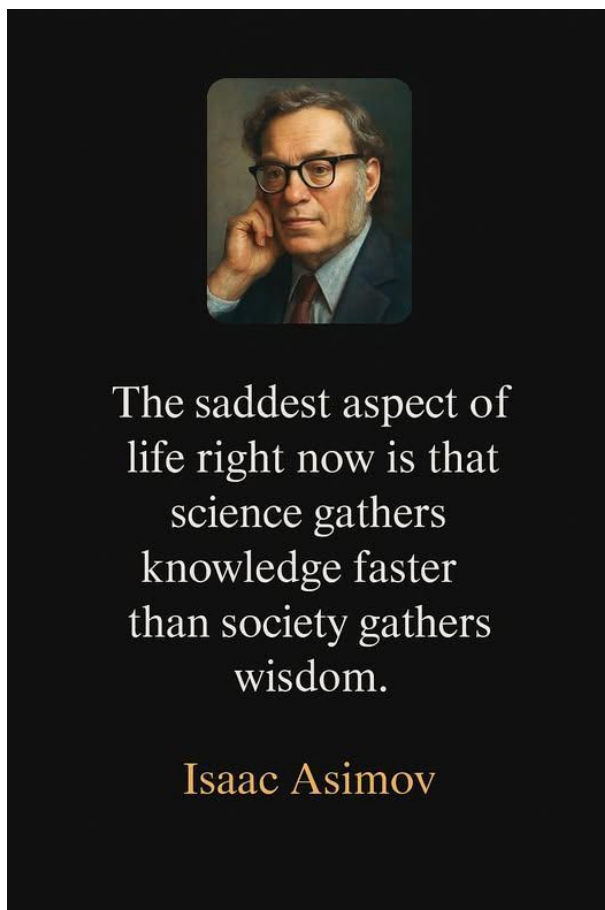
Consider the following sources before responding to Question 4.

SOURCE 4

'As more and more artificial intelligence is entering into the world, more and more emotional intelligence must enter into leadership.' – Amit Ray, author and pioneer of compassionate AI movement

[Source: Eghosa, F. (2025) '100 of My Favorite Artificial Intelligence Quotes', Techpoint Africa, [Electronic], 23 May, Available: bit.ly/AITechQuotes [17 Feb 2026]]

SOURCE 5



[Source: Asimov, I. *Philosophy Fuse's Post. Facebook*. (June 2025) [Online], bit.ly/AsimovQuote [11 February 2026]]

SOURCE 6

Technological progress without ethics will do more harm than good

[Adapted:] UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, 2025

As artificial intelligence and digital technologies become more powerful, they are increasingly influencing decisions about people's lives. These technologies are being used in schools, hospitals, workplaces and governments. While technological innovation can bring many benefits, it also carries serious risks if it is not guided by ethical principles.

Without ethics, technology can deepen inequality, violate privacy and reinforce unfair discrimination. For example, algorithms may make biased decisions that exclude certain groups from job opportunities or access to services. In addition, the misuse of surveillance technology can threaten human rights and reduce personal freedom.

UNESCO warns that technological progress must not come at the expense of dignity, justice and accountability. Ethical frameworks are essential to ensure that innovation supports the well-being of all people rather than causing harm. Therefore, societies must develop and enforce ethical standards so that technology remains a tool for good, not a source of injustice.

Ethical progress must go hand in hand with technological progress.

[Source: UNESCO (2025) 'Ethics of Artificial Intelligence'. [Online], Available: bit.ly/UNESCOEthicsAI (30 January 2026)]

QUESTION 4

Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Technological progress will increase injustice and inequality.

Your response should consider the relevant perspectives reflected in the texts in Section A and Section B of this CAT, as well as your own perspective. You should also refer to an ethical framework of your choice. You are encouraged to provide examples to substantiate and enhance your argument.

PLANNING

LIFE ORIENTATION ESSAY

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[illegible]

[illegible]

70 marks

NB: For IEB schools, it is highly advisable to use the standardised IEB Life Orientation Essay rubric. This is located in the Life Orientation SAGS document.

MARKING RUBRIC:

CRITERIA	LIMITED 1 & 2 0-39 %	ADEQUATE 3 & 4 40-59 %	PROFICIENT 5 & 6 60-79 %	EXCELLENT 7 & 7+ 80-100 %	
Preparation Work <u>BLOOM'S (2,3)</u> Understanding Applying	0-1 Little or no thought has gone into essay planning and preparation. Limited planning map.	2 Evidence that some thought has gone into essay planning and preparation. Simplistic planning map.	3 Detailed thought has gone into essay planning and preparation. Good planning map.	4-5 Perceptive and comprehensive thought has gone into essay planning and preparation. Comprehensive planning map.	/5
Life Orientation Essay <u>BLOOM'S (2,3,4,5,6)</u> Understanding Applying Analysing Evaluating Creating	0-11 Scholar's ideas are communicated poorly. Scholar does not adopt a clear standpoint and fails to account for counter-arguments or multiple perspectives. Lack of credible sources and information.	12-17 Scholar communicates ideas adequately, but simply. Scholar adopts a standpoint, but is inconsistent in places. Contains some credible sources and information. Provides limited counter-arguments and perspectives. Basic structure.	18-23 The scholar's ideas are communicated well. Scholar adopts a clear standpoint on topic and is consistent for most of essay. Standpoint supported by a variety of clear examples. Contains credible sources and information. Provides good account for counter-arguments or multiple perspectives.	24-30 Scholar excellently communicates their views. Scholar adopts a clear and coherent standpoint on the topic. Scholar standpoint supported by a variety of relevant examples, assimilated smoothly into their standpoint. Contains numerous credible sources and information. Provides excellent account for counter-arguments or multiple perspectives. Expression is clear and concise.	/30
Referencing <u>BLOOM'S (1,2,3)</u> Remembering Understanding Applying	0-1 A reference list and/or plagiarism report has not been included. There may be a URL reference or equivalent at some point.	2 A reference list and plagiarism report has been included with 2 or 3 errors in format.	3 A reference list and plagiarism report has been included with an error in format.	4-5 An academic reference list and plagiarism report has been included in the right format.	/5
				TOTAL	/40

ASSESSMENT GRID

BLOOM'S TAXONOMY							
Setting to Cognitive Levels.							
Question	Remembering (1)	Understanding (2)	Applying (3)	Analysing (4)	Evaluating (5)	Creating (6)	Total Marks
SBQs		11	7	6	6		30
Preparation		3	2				5
Life Orientation Essay		8	6	6	6	4	30
Referencing	2	2	1				5
Total	42			28			70