Ethics Cheat Sheet

by Natalie Moore (NatalieMoore) via cheatography.com/19119/cs/2759/

What are ethics

Personal beliefs regardiing what is right and wrong

Behaviour that conforms to generally accespted social norms

The law

Virtues and vices

Belief systems

Integrity

What is an ethical dilema?

A situation where two values, responsib-ilities or obligations are in conflict. **Value v Value**

Consequentialist theory

Position that conduct consequences form the basis for judgement of appropriateness

"Do the ends justify the means?"

Thus, from a consequentialist standpoint, a morally right act (or omission from acting) is one that will produce a good outcome, or consequence.

Some argue that consequentialist and deontological theories are not necessarily mutually exclusive

Ethical awareness / judgement

Decision maker must recognise ethical nature of problem or ethical decision making can not come into play

Research shows ethical issues stimulate a different part of brain to neutral

People more likely to be ethically aware if

1 believe peers will see as ethical problem (people look to social enviro-nment for cues)

Ethical awareness / judgement (cont)

2 Ethical lanuage used to present problem (framing the problem can influence response, also use of euphamistic language)

3 There is potential for serious harm (morally intense)

Cognitive Barriers

Barriers to Fact Gathering

Overconfidence

“Confirmation Trap”

Barriers to Consideration of Consequences

Tend to reduce number of consequences considered to simplify decision making

Consider own consequences more than those of others, perhaps due to immediacy

May ignore consequences which affect only a few people. Put self in their shoes.

May underestimate risk due to illusion of optimism, illusion of control

Escalation of commitment over time. Somethings get bigger as time goes on and people have a tendancy to continue due to the time already put in

Barrier to Integrity

People are likely to think positively about their own Ethics. Known as *Illusion of superiority* or *illusion of morality*

Barriers to Gut Feel

Be careful trusting your gut because it may be wrong

Unconsious attitudes likely bias our decision making

Non-rational emotions

What is business ethics?

Choices about what the laws should be and whether to follow them

Choices about economic and social issues outside the domain of law

Choices about the priority of self interest over the company’s interests

The principles, norms, and standards of conduct governing an individual or group

Normative approaches to ethics

Consequen-tialist theories	Focus on consequences
Deontological theories	Focus on duties, obliga-tions, principles
Virtue Ethics	Focus on integrity

AKA Prescriptive

Normative ethics

Normative ethics is the study of ethical action. It is the branch of philosophical ethics that investigates the set of questions that arise when considering how one ought to act, morally speaking.

8 step guide to sound decision making

1. Gather the facts
2. Define the ethical issue/s
3. Identify affected people - stakeholders
4. Identify the consequences
5. Identify the obligations, and the reason for each one
6. Consider your character and integrity
7. Think creatively about solutions
8. Check your intuition/gut feel

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Kohlbergs 6 stages of moral development

Level 1: Pre-conventional morality (less moral than is typical)

Level 2: Conventional morality (typical level of morality)

Level 3: Post-conventional morality (more moral than is typical)

Who is affected by ethics?

- Individuals
- Employees
- Managers
- Executives
- Industries
- Society

Deontological ethical theory

- Normative
- Concerned with the action taken, not the consequences
- Position that the most moral decision is based on rules, duties and obligations
- AKA Duty, Obligation or Rule based ethics

Virtue ethics

- Normative
- Founded by plato and Arisotle
- Considers actors character, motivation, intentions and principles and the type of character one ought-to be in determining the most moral solution
- Focuses more on the integrity of the moral actor than on the moral act itself
- Goal is to be a good person simply because that is the person you wish to be

Influence of individual differences

Indiv differences affect ethical judgement and actions

Differences:

Ethical Decisi-on--Making Style	Frameworks. Preferences 1) Idealism, the persons concern for welfare of others or 2) *relativism* persons emphasis on ethical principles being case by case
Cognitive Moral Develo-pment	Preconventional, Conventional, Post Conventional / principled. *See Kohlbergs 6 stages of moral development*
Locus of Control	Internal or external perception of control over life events. Taking responsibility for ones own behaviour
Machia-vel-lianism	Self interested behaviour

Influence of individual differences (cont)

Moral Diseng-agement	Idea that normal people don't partake in bad behaviour unless they have convinced self they are doing the right thing. Judgement of a MD person can not be relied upon

Toward Ethical Action

Script Processing

Cognitive frameworks that guide our thoughts and actions

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Too simplistic a way of analyzing

No moral dimension

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