# Environmental ethics

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Environmental Systems and Societies · HL · Vocabulary in context

| Word | Example |
|---|---|
| **environmental ethics** | **Environmental ethics** asks how people ought to treat nature. |
| **descriptive** | A **descriptive** statement says what happens. |
| **normative** /ˈnɔːmətɪv/ | A **normative** statement says what should happen. |
| **moral standing** | An animal with **moral standing** matters for its own sake. |
| **anthropocentric** | An **anthropocentric** person values nature for what it gives people. |
| **instrumental value** | A forest has **instrumental value** because it gives us wood. |
| **biocentric** | A **biocentric** view says every living thing has value. |
| **intrinsic value** /ɪnˈtrɪnsɪk ˈvæljuː/ | Wildlife has **intrinsic value**: it matters even if people never use it. |
| **ecocentric** | An **ecocentric** person values nature for itself. |
| **deep ecology** | **Deep ecology** says nature matters for itself, not just for people. |
| **consequentialism** /ˌkɒnsɪˈkwenʃɪəlɪzəm/ | **Consequentialism** judges an action by its results. |



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| Word | Example |
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| **deontology** /diːənˈtɒlədʒi/ | **Deontology** judges an action by duties and rules. |
| **virtue ethics** /ˈvɜːtʃuː ˈeθɪks/ | **Virtue ethics** asks what a good person would do. |
| **indigenous** /ɪnˈdɪdʒənəs/ | An **Indigenous** community may know a lot about local forests. |
| **reciprocity** /rɪsɪˈprɒsɪti/ | **Reciprocity** means giving back to the land that gives to us. |
| **the Way follows nature** | **The Way follows nature** is an old Daoist idea of respecting nature. |
| **unity of heaven and humanity** | **Unity of heaven and humanity** means people and nature are one. |
| **ecological civilisation** | **Ecological civilisation** means development that cares for the environment. |
| **environmental justice** /enˌvaɪrənˈmentl ˈdʒʌstɪs/ | **Environmental justice** means pollution should not fall mostly on poor people. |
| **distributive justice** | **Distributive justice** asks who gets the benefits and who pays the costs. |
| **procedural justice** | **Procedural justice** asks whether everyone had a fair say. |
| **loss and damage** | Homes lost to climate floods are part of **loss and damage**. |
| **intergenerational equity** | **Intergenerational equity** asks whether borrowing today is fair to our children. |



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