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 /ˌkɒnsɪˈkwenʃəlɪzəm/	**Consequentialism** judges an action by its results.

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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.