

Environmental ethics · supported focus

Supported focus · HL

Supported scope

- Supported HL focus. First assessment 2026; current SL/HL brief acquired. Remaining guide, assessment and practical requirements retain their recorded holds.
- State model conditions and distinguish fictional data from measurements.

Ess Ethics · 1.1

Reasoning

People may agree on the measured loss of a wetland but disagree on whether a development is acceptable. The disagreement can concern values as well as scientific uncertainty. Start with a prediction. State the quantities or features you would compare, then decide what evidence could distinguish two explanations.

Ess Ethics · 2.1

Reasoning

Environmental ethics examines reasons for responsibilities toward people, other organisms and ecological systems. Anthropocentric reasoning emphasizes human interests; biocentric reasoning recognizes moral standing of living organisms; ecocentric reasoning emphasizes ecological wholes. These positions are lenses for analysing arguments, and real individuals can combine them.

intrinsic value : Value considered independent of usefulness to another party; environmental justice : Fair treatment in environmental burdens, benefits and decision-making.

Ess Ethics · 3.1

Reasoning

Separate descriptive claims from normative claims. A species count is evidence about the sampled community; deciding that every species has intrinsic value is a value position. Compare consequences, rights, duties and fairness across generations. A defensible argument states its values, uses accurate evidence and acknowledges competing claims rather than disguising a value choice as a calculation. Use a fictional planning dispute or an attributed historical case. Build an argument table: stakeholder, factual claim, evidence, value principle and possible response. Include affected communities and future generations without pretending to speak for them. Use voluntary anonymous classroom positions; assess the reasoning rather than agreement with a preferred worldview.

Ess Ethics · 4.1

Reasoning

State the known values and their units. Choose the relation because its assumptions fit this case, then rearrange before substitution. Known: a wetland proposal affects 12 hectares of a 60-hectare site, or 20%. This quantifies the stated area change. An anthropocentric argument might examine flood protection and livelihoods; a biocentric argument might consider affected organisms; an ecocentric argument might consider hydrological connections. The 20% figure cannot alone decide which ethical argument is strongest.

Ess Ethics · 4.2

Reasoning

A project affects 9 hectares within a 45-hectare site. Calculate the percentage of area affected. Use the same sequence: known quantities $\rightarrow$ model $\rightarrow$ relation $\rightarrow$ substitution $\rightarrow$ unit and interpretation.

Ess Ethics · 5.1

Reasoning

Worldview labels are analytical aids, not fixed stereotypes of cultures or people. Neither a stakeholder majority nor a numerical index automatically resolves a rights-based or intergenerational objection. Return to the original observation. Explain what the result supports, which conditions it assumes, and one way to test a competing explanation.

Ess Ethics · 5.2

Reasoning

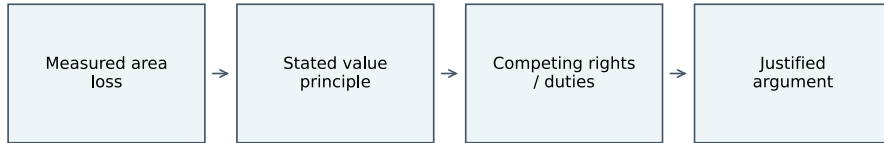
A percentage of habitat lost alone settles the ethical acceptability of a development. This claim is false: Worldview labels are analytical aids, not fixed stereotypes of cultures or people. Neither a stakeholder majority nor a numerical index automatically resolves a rights-based or intergenerational objection.

Ess Ethics · 5.3

Reasoning

Environmental ethics: make the value judgement explicit: Separate descriptive claims from normative claims. A species count is evidence about the sampled community; deciding that every species has intrinsic value is a value position. Compare consequences, rights, duties and fairness across generations. A defensible argument states its values, uses accurate evidence and acknowledges competing claims rather than disguising a value choice as a calculation.

Ess Ethics · diagram



- Original teaching diagram: Environmental ethics: make the value judgement explicit
- Use the labels and the stated model together.

Ess Ethics · original transfer

Your turn

A fictional road removes 4 ha of a 20 ha wetland. Contrast anthropocentric and ecocentric evaluations using this number. What evidence is needed?

Ess Ethics · transfer reasoning

Method and interpretation

Area loss is 20%. Human-centred arguments may weigh livelihoods and flood risk; ecosystem-centred arguments may weigh connectivity and functions. Area alone supplies neither impacts nor a unique ethical weighting.

Check yourself

- Explain intrinsic value using the stated model.
- Explain environmental justice using the stated model.
- Change one value in the original transfer; explain which assumption still matters.