

A theory aimed at determining what is good, both for the individual and for society as a whole.

Other definition: A critical reflection on the aims and foundations of human action (including expressed values) and a guiding of human conduct through questioning, discussion and the proposing of guidelines, rather than the imposing of rules.

Note: From this perspective, ethics differ from morality, which is a system and codification of requirements (standards and rules) governing human conduct, requirements characterised by their universality and by a restraining effect. Nonetheless, ethics, morality and law are closely interdependent.