CHAPTER 1  Ethics and the Law

Reviewing Legal Terms

**DIRECTIONS:** Fill in the blank with the correct vocabulary term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>administrative law</th>
<th>ethics</th>
<th>morality</th>
<th>unconstitutional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>common law</td>
<td>law</td>
<td>precedent</td>
<td>status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>constitution</td>
<td>legislature</td>
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1. The attempt to develop a means for determining the values of society is known as ________.
2. An action or law that conflicts with the most fundamental law of the nation and is, therefore, no longer valid, is said to be ________.
3. The rules and procedures established by regulatory agencies are called ________.
4. The law established by judges and shared throughout England is known as ________.
5. The values which govern a society’s attitude toward right and wrong involve ________.
6. The most fundamental law of a nation or state is its ________.
7. The rules of conduct established by the government of a society are known as ________.
8. Statutory law is created by a ________.
9. Decisions made by the highest court of a state are called the law of ________.
10. Laws specifically passed by a governing body created for that purpose are ________.
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You’re the Judge

DIRECTIONS: For each of the following cases, circle Yes or No to indicate your decision. Then, in your own words, state the ethical or legal principle or reason that applies in the case.

1. Bill Shaeffer is upset that his basketball team is losing the championship game to the Stallions of Shelby High. He considers deliberately injuring the Stallions’ top center but decides not to, because he would not like the same thing to happen to him. Did Bill make an ethical decision here?

   Ethical Principle: ____________________________

   Answer 1. Yes  No

2. Danny Hiebel makes copies of the geometry test that his class will take the next day and passes them around. He justifies his actions by saying that he is helping the majority of the class by giving them advance copies of the test. Is his reasoning ethically correct?

   Ethical Principle: ____________________________

   Answer 2. Yes  No

3. Lucy Demps was charged with stealing. After she is found not guilty, she is arrested for the same offense and tried again. This time the prosecutor calls the crime embezzlement. Can this happen to Lucy?

   Legal Principle: ____________________________

   Answer 3. Yes  No

4. Ann Chun went to the courthouse in her hometown and tried to register to vote. She was told by an assistant clerk that she could not vote until she reached the age of 21. Was the clerk correct?

   Legal Principle: ____________________________

   Answer 4. Yes  No

5. Lois Ross maintained that, if she were permitted to do something under the laws of her state, then the U.S. Constitution could not prevent her from doing it. Was she correct?

   Legal Principle: ____________________________

   Answer 5. Yes  No
CHAPTER 1  Ethics and the Law

Understanding Legal Concepts

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions and explain each of your answers.

1. Are morality and ethics the same thing? Explain your answer.

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. Explain why some people use the greatest good principle when making moral decisions.

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. Why has the golden rule been adopted by many religions?

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

4. Do ethics and morality ever conflict? Explain your answer.

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

5. What are the functions of the law?

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
6. Which articles of the U.S. Constitution set up the government of the United States?

7. Does the term common law mean ordinary law? Explain your answer.

8. What general constitutional principle speaks to the ambiguity of statutes? Explain your answer.

9. Have the regulatory agencies been outlawed by the federal courts?

10. Do administrative regulations have the force of law?
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Legal Activity 1: The Case of the Religious Choir Concert

**SCANS COMPETENCIES ACHIEVED**
Creative Thinking, Problem Solving, Reasoning, Acquiring and Evaluating Information

**OBJECTIVE:** To learn how to apply principles of the First Amendment.

The winter concert sponsored by the Varsity Choir at Mt. Knox High School, a public school in Vernon County, featured several religious songs taken directly from the New Testament of the Bible. The songs clearly portrayed one religion as the only true religion. Several parents complained about this preferential treatment by writing letters to the choir director. At the spring concert that year, the varsity choir again sang several songs taken from the New Testament. These same songs were performed at commencement ceremonies that year. Does singing these religious songs violate any constitutional principle? Explain your answer.
CHAPTER 1 Ethics and the Law

Legal Activity 2: Working with Legal Issues

SCANS COMPETENCIES ACHIEVED
Creative Thinking, Problem Solving, Reasoning, Acquiring and Evaluating Information

OBJECTIVE: To learn to apply legal and ethical knowledge outside the classroom.

Look through newspapers and magazines for an article involving an ethical or legal issue. Cut out the article, mount it on a separate sheet of paper, date it, and record the name of the source. Write a one-paragraph explanation about how having knowledge of ethics and the law would be helpful to the parties involved in the story. Be prepared to discuss your own opinion on the issue in class. Then place the article in your Justice Journal.
## Self-Assessment Quiz

**DIRECTIONS:** Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. If a law conflicts with provisions of the Constitution, a court can declare that law (A) criminal (B) unusual (C) unconstitutional (D) unfair.

2. The rules of conduct established by the government to maintain stability and promote justice are known as (A) ethics (B) morality (C) the golden rule (D) law.

3. When a decision has been made by the highest court in a state, all other courts in the state must follow that case under the law of (A) precedent (B) stability (C) justice (D) ethics.

4. The most fundamental law of a nation or a state is (A) a statute (B) a constitution (C) a regulation (D) a precedent.

5. A law passed by the legislature is known as (A) a statute (B) a constitution (C) a regulation (D) a precedent.

6. Regulatory agencies have the power to create (A) statutes (B) constitutions (C) regulations (D) precedents.

7. To become law, federal statutes must usually be signed by (A) the president (B) the governor (C) the Senate majority leader (D) a federal judge.

8. At the federal level, statutes are made by (A) the president (B) the Supreme Court (C) the Congress (D) the agencies.

9. Law based on custom and shared throughout a state or a country is known as (A) common law (B) international law (C) unified law (D) shared law.

10. Rules and procedures established by the regulatory agencies are known as (A) administrative law (B) statutory law (C) common law (D) governmental law.