

University Studies Ethical Issues and Social Responsibility

Note: In this scoring guide, the phrase “ethical issues and social responsibility” refers to the impact and value of individuals and their choices on society – intellectually, socially, and personally.

Score of 6 – Consistently does all or almost all of the following:

- creatively and comprehensively articulates approaches to ethical issues and social responsibility, in a scholarly manner, citing specific evidence
- demonstrates an ability view multiple sides of these issues
- questions what is being taught
- constructs independent meaning and interpretations
- presents well-developed ideas on the role of ethical issues and social responsibility in both private and public life
- demonstrates a deep awareness of how a conceptual understanding of ethical issues and social responsibility manifests concretely in one’s own personal choices, including decisions on when and how to act

Score of 5 – Does most of the following:

- analyzes ethical issues and social responsibility in a scholarly manner
- makes thoughtful connections between this area of study and its effects on lives, ideas, and events
- discusses explicitly how a deepening understanding of ethical issues and social responsibility has influenced personal opinions, decisions, and views on the role of self in society

Score of 4 – Does most of the following:

- thoughtfully analyzes, in a scholarly manner, a situation or situations in which ethical issues and social responsibility have played an important role
- begins to investigate connections between areas of controversy and to extrapolate meaning from specific examples
- applies learning in ethical issues and social responsibility to issues that arise in everyday life
- contemplates the impact of personal ethical choices and social action in the context of interpersonal and broader societal spheres

Score of 3 – Does most or many of the following:

- exhibits a working knowledge of major themes and scholarly debates surrounding ethical issues and social responsibility
- applies understanding to some topic(s) but offers no independent analysis
- references ethical issues and social responsibility as a subject of personal inquiry
- begins to question established views
- contemplates in some way the value and impact of individual choices and personal action on one’s broader community

Score of 2 – Does most or many of the following:

- mentions some issue(s) involving ethics and/or talks about social responsibility in a general fashion, but does not discuss these areas in a meaningful way
- contains some evidence of self-reflection in the area of ethical issues and/or social responsibility, but this reflection is superficial and reveals little or no questioning of established views

Score of 1 – Consistently does all or almost all of the following:

- displays little or no engagement with the subjects of ethical issues and social responsibility
- demonstrates little or no recognition of ethical issues and social responsibility as subjects worthy of personal inquiry.