

ProTalk

Discussion Files

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Language Center

C2. Technoethics

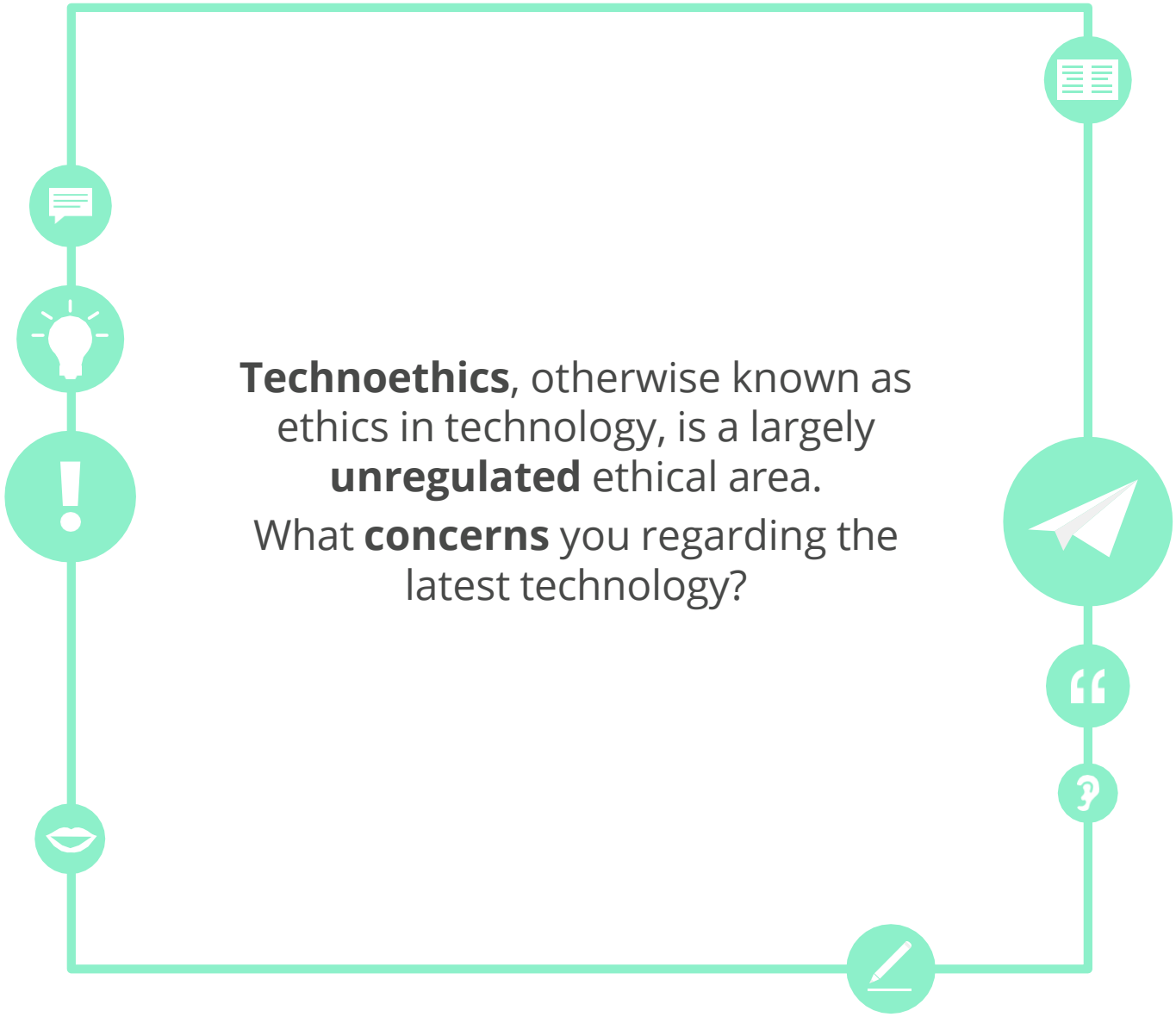
Afaq Language Center

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Goals

- Can read and understand a challenging text on technoethics.
- Can evaluate and discuss the major ethical issues involved in the development of new technology.





Technoethics, otherwise known as ethics in technology, is a largely **unregulated** ethical area.

What **concerns** you regarding the latest technology?

Ethics

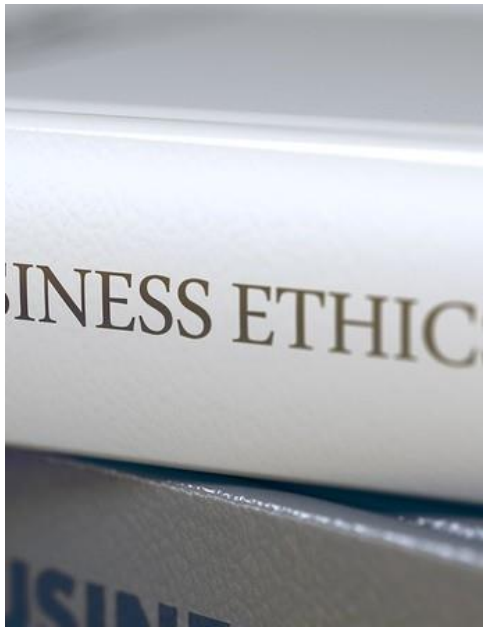
Would you consider yourself an ethical person?

Where do you think people get their ethics from?

Have you ever faced an ethical dilemma?

Ethics

Answer these questions about ethics at work or at school.



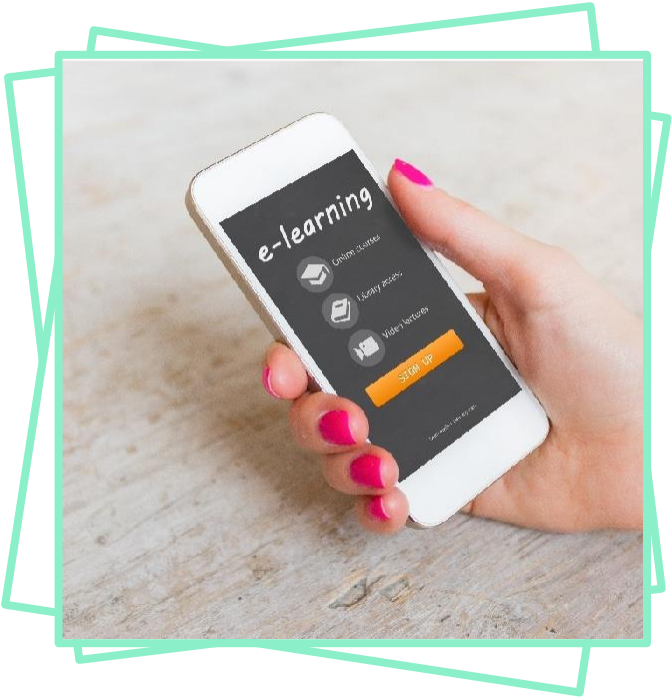
1. What constitutes ethical behaviour towards your colleagues or classmates?

2. What do you think is ethical behaviour towards your superiors?

3. Do you think you have a responsibility to report unethical behaviour?

Technology

What technology do you use on a day-to-day basis? Is there any technology that you try to avoid? Why?





Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

eugenics	**Eugenics** was a pseudo-science in the first half of the twentieth century.
GMO	Food produced using **GMO** is considered by some to be dangerous.
detrimental	Working long hours had a **detrimental** effect on his health.
crops	Maize and corn are popular **crops** in Mexico.
cross-pollination	**Cross-pollination** can be both positive and negative for the environment.
subdivided	Each chapter is **subdivided** into smaller sections.

Read the text and summarize it.

Technoethics

Technoethics, or ethics in technology, is defined as the study of **moral**, **legal**, and **social ethics** in technology. This study can be **subdivided** into two main areas: whether the **invention** of a certain technology is ethical; and how that technology is used. Questions of ethics in technology are gaining **gravitas** in the internet age, when **cookies** in websites and **GPS** on our smartphones follow us everywhere.



Read the text and summarize it.

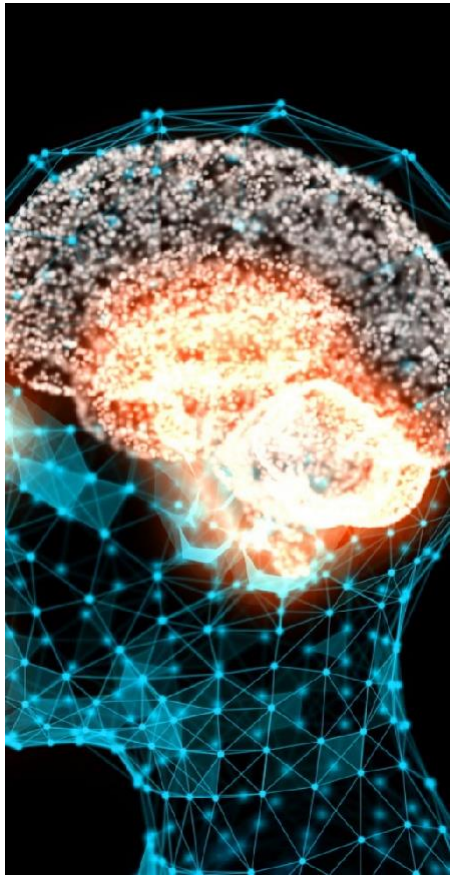
Technoethics

Though technoethics is a relatively new term, concerns expressed over technological developments and their impact on humans is nothing new. In the 1940s, the **pseudoscience** of **eugenics** raised huge moral questions, while the American nuclear tests in the same decade also raised public concern. There are many areas with which technoethics are concerned, but the main ones include **biological** developments, and those related to the **internet**.



Read the text and summarize it.

Technoethics



GMO, or genetically modified organisms, raises ethical questions related to the impact of these genetic modifications on other **crops** through **cross pollination**. It is also possible that there could be **detrimental** health consequences for humans and animals.

The **mind-reading** technologies being developed in laboratories around the world profess to recognise brain activity related to words and images. Cool, right? But, do you really want someone to be able to read and even record your every thought?

Ethics

What is the difference between **moral**, **legal** and **social** ethics?



Discuss

Do you allow cookies on your internet browsers or use GPS? In which other ways do you think your data is being recorded on the internet?





Technoethics in the past

The text mentions eugenics and the nuclear bomb as areas of concern for technoethics in the past. What other examples from the pre-internet age can you think of which may have caused concern?

Biological science

Are you concerned about GMO? Are there any other areas of biological science that concern you? Which developments in biology are you excited about for the future?



Do you agree with the statements?

Would you like to try the mind-reading technology as mentioned in the text? In what ways could it be used for good or evil?

It would make life easier.

We would be able to communicate with animals, or even people who are unable to communicate verbally or physically.

People would be able to read our subversive thoughts.

The pace of change

Do you think it is possible to keep up with the pace of change in technology, particularly with the advent of the internet? What implications does this have for technoethics?

Wishlists



Do you ever make wishlists on websites? Do you worry about how the information about you might be used?

Personal data

When else might you worry about your personal information being used?

Do you think it is a necessary hazard of using the internet?



Regulations

Do you think there should be a central regulatory body to oversee technoethics? Who should make up the body?



corporations

government

Technoethics in fiction

Have you watched or read anything about technoethics? Did it influence your opinion?

Speech

Prepare a one minute speech about one area of technoethics that you are worried about. Describe the area, your concerns with it, and how you would propose to regulate those dangers. After you have shared your ideas, prepare to answer your classmates' questions.



Presentation

Prepare a two-minute presentation describing technoethics, including the main areas it touches upon and the one area you are most concerned about. Include several reasons to support your point of view.
Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.