AGEC Grade 11 Accounting Teacher Lesson Plan

What is ethics in business?

The Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge (AGEC) offers lesson plans that are interactive and CAPS-aligned, encouraging teachers to bring gamified learning into the classroom. These lesson plans enhance the CAPS curriculum per grade by highlighting one or two learning outcomes per subject that links to the AGEC High School Game, enabling fun integration and learning opportunities.

Subject: Accounting

Topic: Ethics in Business (based on South African legislation and principles)	**Part A:** Class discussion. What is ethical business behaviour?	**15 minutes**
	Part B: Work with a partner to play the AGEC High School Game and complete the worksheet.	**35 minutes**
	Part C: Completion of worksheet. Class discussion.	**10 minutes**

Resources: Access to internet, AGEC **(www.theentrepreneurshipchallenge.com)** and the "Worksheet for Lesson".
Vocabulary: Business ethics, ethical behaviour, ethical dilemma, stakeholders, reputation, accountability, transparency and sustainability.
Advance preparation: Print one worksheet for each learner. Ensure that all learners (working in pairs) have access to the AGEC website and High School Game (available on all devices - cellphone, laptop, computer, tablet).

Part A 15min Set the scene — Whole Class

Hold a class discussion and ask learners:

- What makes a business decision ethical or unethical?
- Who may be affected by a business's decisions?
- Can a decision benefit the business but harm other people?

Key terms:

- **Business ethics:** The principles that guide a business to make honest, fair and responsible decisions.
- **Ethical behaviour:** Conduct that demonstrates honesty, fairness, integrity and respect for others.
- **Ethical dilemma:** A situation in which a person or business must choose between options that may have different consequences for the people involved.
- **Stakeholders:** People or groups affected by the business, including owners, employees, customers, suppliers and the community.
- **Reputation:** The opinion that stakeholders have of a business, based on its conduct and decisions.

In summary, **ethical conduct** helps a business build trust, protect its reputation and maintain strong relationships with its stakeholders, while **unethical conduct** may result in financial loss, conflict and loss of support.

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Part A 15min Set the scene (continued)

Applying ethics to business decisions

A **code of ethics** is a written guide explaining the standards of conduct expected from a business and its employees. However, ethical behaviour also requires people to apply sound judgement when making decisions.

Focus the discussion on these three Grade 11 concepts:

- **Accountability:** Accepting responsibility for decisions and actions, explaining what happened and correcting mistakes where necessary.
- **Transparency:** Providing relevant information honestly and clearly, without concealing important facts.
- **Sustainability:** Making decisions that support the long-term financial wellbeing of the business while considering their effect on people and the environment.

Practical small-business examples

- **Cash and records:** All sales and expenses should be recorded accurately. Business money should not be used for personal purposes without being recorded.
- **Customers:** Product information, prices and advertising should be honest and not misleading.
- **Employees and suppliers:** People should be treated fairly and paid according to the agreed terms.
- **Resources and waste:** A business should avoid unnecessary waste and consider how its activities affect the community and environment.

For each example, ask learners:

1. What is the ethical issue?
2. Who is affected?
3. Which principle applies?
4. What may happen in the short and long term?
5. What would be a more ethical decision?

Part B Prep Ensure that learners have access to the online game

What they will need: Any device (phone, tablet, or computer); internet or data to register; your school's details; an email address or mobile number; access to the AGEC website **www.theentrepreneurshipchallenge.com**.

Registration: Learners can register with an email address/mobile number. They have to choose their profile role type as 'High School Learner', complete the registration form and click on "start playing".

Logging into their gaming account: Once their email address or mobile number has been verified, they can log in again at any time on the AGEC website.

PREPARATION FOR NEXT STEPS

- Read through the worksheet with learners. Explain that the AGEC game represents a small business and that business decisions may affect customers, employees, costs, sales, reputation and Business Value.
- Support learners as they log in to the AGEC game. Preferably learners work in pairs so that they can collaborate.

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Part B 35min Play the game and do the worksheet — With a partner

WORKSHEET INSTRUCTIONS

Learners should:

- Play through six payday cycles.
- Identify decisions that may have ethical consequences.
- Discuss who may be affected by each decision.
- Consider accountability, transparency and sustainability.
- Record their Business Value.
- Explain how one decision affected the business.
- Support learners as they play and complete the worksheet.

TIP: At the end of gameplay, it could also be fun to reward the pair that provides the clearest explanation of an ethical decision, rather than only the pair with the highest Business Value.

Part C 10min Discussion and Reflection — In pairs and whole class

Hold a class discussion: Learners provide answers to the below questions based on their worksheet answers.

Learner Worksheet Questions:

1. What does ethics mean in a business context?
2. Give two examples of ethical behaviour in a business.
3. Explain the meaning of: Accountability; Transparency; Sustainability.
4. Identify one business decision you made in the AGEC High School Game. Explain whether you think the decision was ethical or unethical.
5. Which stakeholders were affected by this decision? Consider customers, employees, suppliers, the owner or the community.
6. How did the decision affect your business's reputation, performance or Business Value?
7. Describe one situation in which a business could increase its short-term profit but harm its stakeholders or reputation.
8. What would you do differently next time to make your business more accountable, transparent or sustainable?

Additional review questions

- Why are accountability and transparency important in business?
- How can an unethical decision affect a business and its stakeholders?
- How can a small business make more sustainable decisions?

Learners can play the AGEC High School game throughout the year to improve their business acumen.

For more information about AGEC please visit www.theentrepreneurshipchallenge.com or send an email to info@theentrepreneurshipchallenge.com