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It's not about you.
It's not about me.
*It's about "We".
Working Together.
As one.*

**LIFE ORIENTATION COMMON
ASSESSMENT TASK A**

Covering **Questions 1, 2 and 4**

Life Orientation Topics Covered in CATA



Social and Environmental Responsibility

Community responsibility to provide environments and services that promote safe and healthy living: – Responsibilities of various levels of government: laws, regulations, rules and community services – Educational and intervention programmes; impact studies

Democracy and Human Rights

Responsible citizenship:
– Evaluating own position when dealing with discrimination and human rights violations, taking into account the Bill of Rights
– Discussion of projects, campaigns and events which address discrimination and human rights violations

Aims of the 2025 CAT A

The 2025 Common Assessment Task will explore the concept of **Ubuntu**. It will unpack the different aspects of the philosophy and examine how Ubuntu is a concept understood worldwide. It will also examine the positive impact of living according to the principles of Ubuntu.



Resources for Question 1, 2 and 4	Use in conjunction with the CAT A Manual and information provided by the IEB.
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ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Questions 3 (20 marks) and 4 (60 marks) are compulsory questions for assessment.

We will work through Question 1 and Question 2 and you must take careful notes of the comments and observations made. These will give you insight into the multiple perspectives of each contextual source that you may not have previously considered. This will aid you in providing quality responses in the CAT A and B. Regarding your responses in both CAT A and CAT B – please ensure that you provide sufficient detail in your answers. You are required to think deeply about each question and to ensure that your opinions and thoughts are supported by valid reasoning



The IEB CAT A will explore:



WE
ARE
ONE

An understanding of the philosophy of Ubuntu.

An exploration of how this philosophy is expressed in different countries and across various cultures.

How we can use the philosophy of Ubuntu to better our lives and the lives of those around us.

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An understanding of the philosophy of Ubuntu

Attributes and meanings of the African philosophy of *Ubuntu*

<i>Ubuntu</i> attribute	African <i>Ubuntu</i> meaning
U - Universal	Global, Intercultural brotherhood
B - Behaviour	Human (humane), caring, sharing, respect, compassion (love, appreciation)
U- United	Solidarity, community, bond, family
N - Negotiation	Consensus, democracy
T - Tolerance	Patience, diplomacy
U - Understanding	Empathy (forgiveness, kindness)

(Source: Broodryk, 2005:175)



WATCH:
UBUNTU told by Nelson Mandela:
<https://youtu.be/HED4h00xPPA>

QUESTION 1 AN EXPLORATION OF UBUNTU

AIM: To explore the concept of Ubuntu and gain an understanding of how it manifests in different cultures and countries.

Watch the video clip on UBUNTU as told by Nelson Mandela.



Origins and Meaning of Ubuntu

Etymology of Ubuntu

'Ubuntu' originates from the Nguni Bantu language, highlighting its cultural roots and significance in African philosophy.

Meaning of Ubuntu

Ubuntu translates to 'humanity to others,' emphasising the interconnectedness and compassion among individuals within a community.

Philosophical Significance

The phrase 'I am because we are' encapsulates the essence of Ubuntu, stressing the value of community and mutual support.



Core Principles and Values



Philosophy of Ubuntu
Ubuntu emphasises the importance of compassion and respect for all individuals, fostering a strong community bond.

Interconnectedness
The principle of interconnectedness highlights how every individual's actions impact the community and the world.

Collective Good
Ubuntu encourages individuals to work together for the collective good, fostering a sense of belonging and shared responsibility.



Ubuntu in African Culture



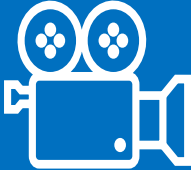
Concept of Ubuntu
Ubuntu is a philosophical concept emphasising interconnectedness and mutual support within communities, fostering a sense of belonging.



Social Harmony
The principle of Ubuntu promotes social harmony and cooperation among individuals, highlighting the importance of collective well-being.



Ethics of Care
Ubuntu forms the foundation of social ethics, where caring for others enhances the overall health and well-being of the community.



WATCH:
Brené Brown - Embracing
Vulnerability:
<https://youtu.be/AO6n9HmG0qM>



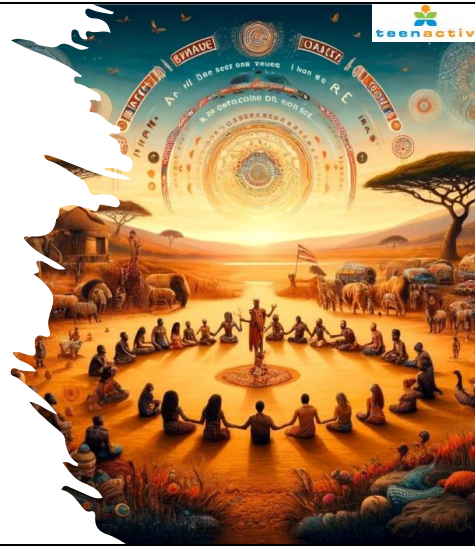
Question 1.1.2: Trusting People can be Vulnerable.

Watch the Brene Brown clip, Embracing Vulnerability.

Ubuntu: The Philosophy of Shared Humanity

Link to the above
article:

<https://thepanafrika.com/ubuntu-the-philosophy-of-shared-humanity/>





Ubuntu: The Philosophy of Shared Humanity continued...

“The Roots and Reach of Ubuntu

In contrast to Western individualism, epitomised by Descartes’ “I think, therefore I am,” Ubuntu holds that one’s humanity is defined through others. It was popularised globally by figures like Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, particularly in the context of South Africa’s **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, where it played a critical role in **restorative justice**.

Ubuntu values compassion, mutual support, and the well-being of the collective. This moral obligation transcends superficial kindness—it’s about genuine empathy and the recognition that **your humanity is tied to the humanity of others**. By fostering communal harmony, Ubuntu encourages consensus-building and peaceful conflict resolution.”

Retrieved from: <https://thepanafica.com/ubuntu-the-philosophy-of-shared-humanity/>



Question 1.1.8 The conflict resolution process in the context of Ubuntu is similar to restorative justice.

How can we link the concept of restorative justice to Ubuntu?

Restorative justice is the process of dealing with wrongdoing that focuses on healing, making peace, and fixing relationships instead of punishing people. It brings together everyone involved—victims, offenders, and the community—in a collaborative process to understand the harm caused and to develop a plan for making amends. Ubuntu also focuses on resolving conflict by restoring harmony in the community. It addresses the needs of everyone involved and strengthens relationships between people. Restorative justice and Ubuntu are similar because they both aim to heal and bring people together. Instead of focusing on punishment, they prioritise repairing harm, helping people reconcile, and reintegrating individuals into the community. By focusing on the well-being of everyone and their connections, they create a more peaceful and united society. (Taken from Teacher's Guide)

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BACKGROUND

In response to the challenges faced by the criminal justice system and simultaneously transforming the administration of justice, the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPC) has adopted the Restorative Justice approach for several reasons including the fact that Restorative Justice is largely informed by indigenous and customary responses to crime, and that it refers to processes which exist outside of the criminal justice system, including "various forms of ordering and justice".

There is a similarity between restorative justice and justice as practised by Africans through community and customary courts which have also found expression in urban areas in forums such as street committees and people's courts. The current justice system i.e. the system of punishing people for crimes committed seems to have only limited success, hence the need for a different approach and response.

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative Justice is an approach to justice that aims to involve the parties to a dispute and others affected by the harm (victims, offenders, families concerned and community members) in collectively identifying harms, needs and obligations through accepting responsibilities, making restitution, and taking measures to prevent a recurrence of the incident and promoting reconciliation.

Restorative Justice sees crime as an act against the victim and shifts the focus to repairing the harm that has been committed against the victim and community. It believes that the offender also needs assistance and aims to identify what needs to change to prevent future re-offending.

WHAT ARE THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

1. Restorative Justice processes must comply with the rule of law, human rights principles and the rights provided in the South African Constitution.
2. Restorative Justice must promote the dignity of victims and offenders, and ensure that there is no domination or discrimination.
3. All parties must be provided with complete information as to the purpose of the process, their rights within the process and the possible outcomes of the process.
4. Parties should clearly understand that they may withdraw from the process at any time.
5. Parties must be given a reasonable amount of time to consider their options, when a restorative justice option is proposed.
6. Referral to restorative justice processes is possible at any stage of the criminal justice system, with particular emphasis on pre-trial diversion, plea and sentence agreements, pre-sentence process, as part of the sentence, and part of the reintegration process, including parole.
7. Participation in restorative justice processes must be voluntary for all parties, including victims.
8. Victims and offenders should be allowed to bring support persons to the encounter provided that this does not compromise the rights and safety of any other party.

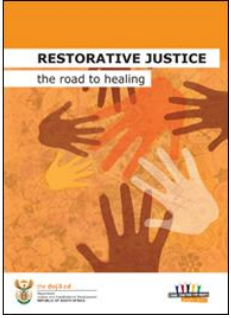
WHEN CAN IT BE APPLIED?

Restorative Justice can be applied at any stage in the Criminal Justice System such as:-

1. Pre-charge (before a charge is laid).
2. Pre-trial (after a charge is laid and before accused appears in Court).
3. Post-charge (after charge, but before plea is made).
4. After conviction, but before sentence.
5. Post-sentence (for parole and re-integration purposes).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A RESTORATIVE APPROACH TO JUSTICE?

- **Preventing re-offending**
Research indicates that offenders who experience restorative justice interventions are less likely to re-commit further offences than similar offenders who are subject to more conventional interventions.
- **Empowering victims**
Restorative Justice processes can facilitate access to justice for victims and provide a more empowering experience for victims. It is also less time consuming and costly. It has greater possibility for restitution, compensation and giving victims a voice.
- **Benefiting criminal justice agencies**
It helps to reduce case backlogs and to prevent unnecessary cost and delay in the criminal justice system. Downloading in progress



Link to the above Fact Sheet: <https://www.justice.gov.za/rj/2011rj-factsheet-eng.pdf>

Link to the above booklet: https://www.justice.gov.za/images/p_pdf.gif

Equality, Dignity and Non-discrimination



Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 - Chapter 2: Bill of Rights

Equality

1. Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.
2. Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. To promote the achievement of equality, legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination may be taken.
3. The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.
4. No person may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds in terms of subsection (3). National legislation must be enacted to prevent or prohibit unfair discrimination.
5. Discrimination on one or more of the grounds listed in subsection (3) is unfair unless it is established that the discrimination is fair.

Retrieved from: <https://www.gov.za/documents/constitution/chapter-2-bill-rights#9>

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Everyone in society needs to play a part, regardless of how small one may think it is. We all have a role to play and it's of vital importance that our actions inspire others to want to be a part of a better and brighter future.

Ubuntu is also about justice, and particularly, justice for all people. As much as we must look after each other, it is also just as important that we exercise fairness and equality for all people regardless of race, gender, or social status.

So essentially, Ubuntu is about togetherness as well as a fight for the greater good.

Retrieved from: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/ubuntu-south-africa-together-nelson-mandela/>

Read through Question 1.1 – “What is Ubuntu” and get learners to discuss and complete the questions.

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 WATCH:
The story of UBUNTU:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjVwsgL2i98>

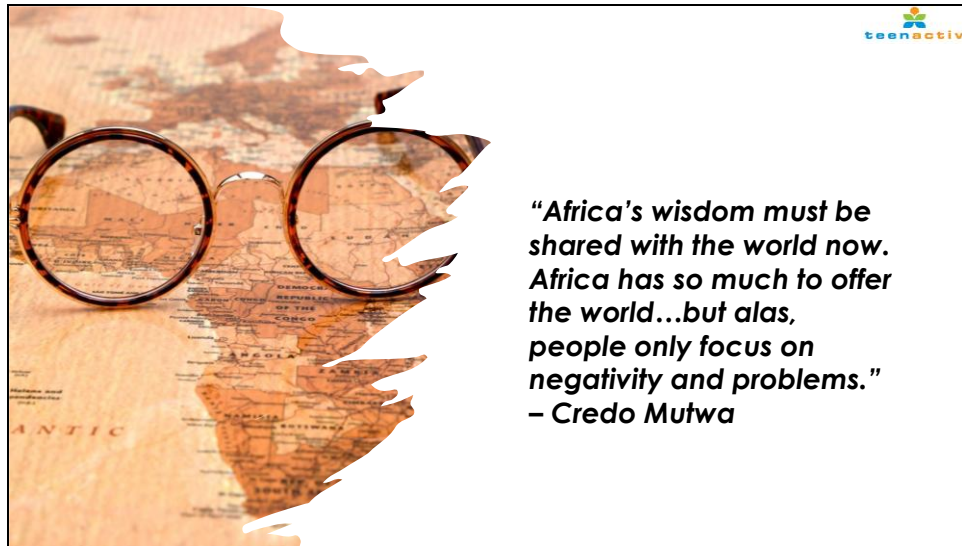
Ubuntu – I am because we all are.

This is a powerful and inspiring story about the African philosophy of teamwork and collaboration.
Narrated by Tim Duggan

Question 1.2 – The Popularisation of Ubuntu

Watch the Clip about UNBUNTU – African Philosophie of Teamwork and Collaboration.

Read through Question 1.2 and get learners to discuss and complete the questions.



Ubuntu: The Philosophy of Shared Humanity continued...



"Embracing Ubuntu for a Better Future"

By embracing Ubuntu, we can cultivate a more inclusive and empathetic society. This involves **building deeper connections**, approaching conflicts with understanding, and recognising our roles within the larger community. From small acts of kindness to global peacebuilding efforts, Ubuntu's call to shared humanity reminds us that **"I am because we are."**

As the world faces increasing division and isolation, the principles of Ubuntu—**interdependence, empathy, and communal responsibility**—offer a path to a more harmonious and sustainable future.

Ubuntu is more than an African concept; it's a **universal philosophy** that encourages us to view ourselves not in isolation but as part of a greater collective. As we seek to address the world's challenges, Ubuntu serves as a timeless reminder that our strength lies in our interconnectedness. Together, we can build a future based on shared humanity and collective well-being."

Retrieved from: <https://thepanfrica.com/ubuntu-the-philosophy-of-shared-humanity/>

Question 1.3 – Ubuntu in other words

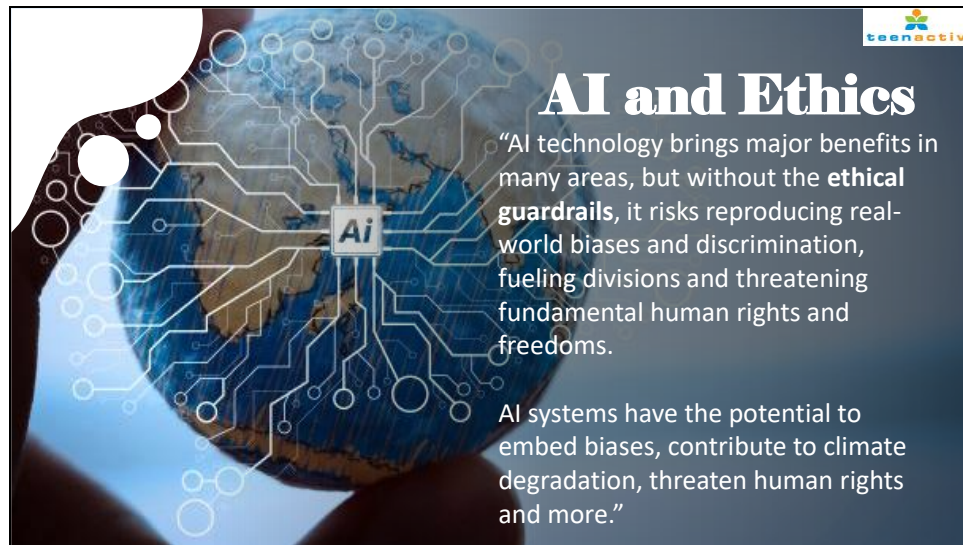
UBUNTU and the Earth/Environment



- Reconnecting with the Earth is a journey that demands both introspection and action.
- It challenges us to see the world through the lens of Ubuntu, recognising that our well-being is tied to the health of our environment.
- This challenge calls for courage, creativity, and commitment. It is a call to embrace our roots, honour our heritage, and innovate for a sustainable future.
- Our Mother Earth is not a distant entity but a living community to which we belong.
- Reconnecting with the Earth will create a more harmonious, sustainable, and just world.

Retrieved from: <https://laudato-youthinitiative.org/2024/07/30/ubuntu-and-the-earth-reviving-ancient-wisdom-for-modern-environmental-stewardship/>

Get learners to discuss and complete Question 1.3 questions.



QUESTION 2 THE IMPACT OF UBUNTU ON SOCIETY

AIM: To gain an understanding of how 'Ubuntu in action' can have a positive impact on society.

[For the teacher: For your information, see Source: *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*. Read through *UNESCO recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*.]

The rapid rise in **artificial intelligence (AI)** has created **many opportunities globally**, from facilitating healthcare diagnoses to enabling human connections through social media and creating labour efficiencies through automated tasks. However, these rapid changes also raise **profound ethical concerns**. These arise from the potential AI systems have to embed biases, contribute to climate degradation, threaten human rights and more. Such risks associated with AI have already begun to compound on top of existing inequalities, resulting in further harm to already marginalised groups.

Go through Question 2.1 and get learners to complete the questions.



WATCH:
Desmond Tutu (forgiveness)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uo2LGGqtjqM>

Watch the clip on Forgiveness by Desmond Tutu.

Go through Question 2.2 UBUNTU and the judiciary and get learners to discuss and complete the questions.

QUESTION 4 Compulsory – 60 Marks:

CHANGING OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE PRINCIPLES OF UBUNTU



Aim: Through research, you will be required to select an area of your community that you feel needs to change so that it operates according to the principles of Ubuntu. The skills of analysis, critical thinking and creativity will be required to respond adequately to this section.

Task instructions

You are required to identify an area in your community that lacks the principles of Ubuntu in some way. Your focus can be on any area in your community where the principles of Ubuntu have been distorted in some way to fit a specific agenda OR where your community reflects specific problems that the principles of Ubuntu could make healthier.

As part of your research, you are required to interview at least THREE people from your community. The people you choose need to be from different ethnic/cultural groups. These interviews are necessary for you to gain an understanding of Ubuntu as seen through the eyes of those around you, but also to help you identify areas that need to be changed to be more in line with the principles of Ubuntu.

Work through Question 4 and the rubric with your learners ensuring that they understand what is required.

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Because WE ARE

All the words in the world wouldn't tell you All the money you never could spend it You deserve all the praise in the world cos It's all because of you that In the middle of all that is changing We can count on the difference you're making Cos everyday you are there, come what may Nakanjan ukona da All because of you Oh the world keeps spinning round Because of you we can stand on firmer ground All because of you keep our heart beat safe and sound Cos of you We can feel we're stronger now Eli vili liyajika Ngengxa yakho WE ARE All the best of a nation united WE ARE Coming through like a light in the darkness WE ARE Any test we will pass Am and!a! ANY STRUGGLE WE WILL WIN!	Because WE ARE The greatest dream of our mothers before us Nkosi sikelela will remind us moving forth to our destiny calling WE WILL BUILD THE DREAM All because of you Oh the world keeps spinning round Because of you we can stand on firmer ground All because of you keep our heart beat safe and sound Cos of you We can feel we're stronger now And even when life is hardest There's nothing stronger than kindness On your knees every night like a fighter Getting up every morning stronger Thuma thina we will rise, yeah Maluphakam'iswu phondo lwayo To the light we moving together Building a future our ancestors could only dream All because of you Nom akanjani jy's daarso bra We just want to say dankie daarso Ons waardeer dit en eer dit ngiyabonga man Mhlobo wami dankie son Ey, we've been through the worst The last shall be first It's all Because...you you you!	All because of you Eli vili liyajika Ngengxa yakho Syanibonga We Love You We Appreciate You Syabulela Sphuma Kude Futhi Siya Phambili Oh! Because Of You...
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WATCH:
Because We Are
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeUL-d5ssE4>

Watch the clip of the song, Because we are.