

M08 – Business Ethics & CSR

Assignment Guidelines:

This assignment requires students to critically assess the importance of business ethics and CSR in today's organisations. Students will have the opportunity to assess ethical decision making models, the duties of stakeholders and the company in the areas of corporate governance, sustainability, social and environmental obligations, ethical leadership and how csr strategies can impact on organisation performance and reputation.

Students should critically assess actual ethical dilemmas in organisations and formulate evidence-based advice on the way forward for responsible and sustainable business conduct.

Submission Format:

- Detailed project report
- Font: Times New Roman, Size: 12
- Spacing: Double
- Word Count: 4000–5000 words
- Submission Deadline: 4th September, 2026

Assessment Criteria:

- Understanding of business ethics and CSR theories and concepts (20%)
- Application of ethical frameworks and CSR models to organisational contexts (20%)
- Critical analysis of ethical challenges, stakeholder issues, and sustainability practices (20%)
- Use of real-world examples, case studies, and evidence-based arguments (20%)
- Academic writing, referencing, and APA formatting (20%)

Mandatory Sections:

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Findings
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- References
- Appendices

Assignment Task – Choose ONE of the following written assignments:

Option 1: Ethical Decision-Making and Corporate Responsibility

Prepare a critical report analysing how organisations integrate ethical principles into business decision-making and corporate practices.

Your paper should:

- Discuss the relevance of understanding business ethics in modern organisations.
- Describe key ethical theories and frameworks applied in organisational decisions, such as stakeholder theory, utilitarian ethics, deontological ethics and virtue ethics.
- Evaluate the impact of ethical leadership on organisational culture, staff behaviour, and trust from stakeholders.
- Identify a real-life ethical dilemma for an organisation and assess how the management acted.
- Propose actions to enhance decision-making in ethical matters and responsible business conduct.

Option 2: Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability, and Stakeholder Management

Develop a strategic report evaluating the role of CSR and sustainability initiatives in creating long-term organisational value.

Your paper should:

- Explain the meaning and development of corporate social responsibility (CSR).
- Critically evaluate the CSR models such as stakeholder theory, Triple Bottom Line (TBL), and several sustainable development principles.
- Examine how organisations manage environmental, social and governance (ESG) obligations.
- Assess the CSR of an actual organisation in relation to the impact on stakeholders, reputation and business performance.
- Examine issues related to challenges in implementing CSR, such as greenwashing, stakeholder conflict and resource constraints.
- Propose approaches to effective and sustainable CSR practice.

Option 3: Corporate Governance, Ethical Risks, and Responsible Business Practices

Analyse the relationship between corporate governance, ethical risk management, and responsible organisational behaviour.

Your paper should:

- Describe the principles of and the need for corporate governance in promoting responsible business conduct.
- Consider ethical risks such as bribery, fraud, conflicts of interest, marketing to children and other vulnerable groups, labour and environmental abuse.
- Critically assess a real world failure in corporate governance, and the effects of this failure for the stakeholders and the performance of the organisation.
- Suggest the mechanisms of governance and ethical practice that would support greater accountability and responsible decision-making.

