

Integrity in Professional Ethics Discussion

Q1: What does integrity mean to you?

A1: To be honest.

Q2: Is integrity the core principle in professional behaviour? If yes, why?

A2: Yes, because only technical skills do not satisfy expectations of clients.

Q3: What are the threats to ethical behaviour?

A3: Crisis, dumping.

Q4: How do these threats change as the economic climate changes?

A4: Threats are more serious in the times of crisis.

Q5: How is integrity instilled in your audit firm or your organization? Does it always work? How could it be improved?

A5: Core principles of integrity are discussed during the seminars, but practical situations, complains and results of quality controls are discussed at the meetings of Ethics Committee.

Q6: Do readers agree that integrity is actually the core principle and should be highlighted as such, compared with the other fundamental principles referred to in paragraph 2.3? If not, why?

A6: Yes.

Q7: Do the other fundamental principles derive from integrity or are they complementary to it? Please explain your rationale?

A7: Other fundamental principles of professional development derive from integrity.

Q8: From the perspective of professional ethical behaviour, does the quality of persons' character matter if their actions are consistent with expected standards?

A8: Yes, because there is always an element of bias in the concept of ethical behavior.

Q9: Do readers believe that the perceived integrity of the profession as a whole impacts upon the integrity of individuals within it?

A9: Yes.

Q10: Would it be helpful for codes of ethics of accountancy bodies to include further discussion on integrity? If so, what are the key points that should be included?

A10: No.

Q11: Should there be greater clarity of the extent to which personal integrity would affect professional integrity, to enhance harmonization? What sort of personal behaviour should merit professional disciplinary action?

A11: Yes, there should be. Qualities such as reliability, honesty and accuracy are evaluated high.

Q12: Do you agree with the behavioural characteristics discussed in paragraph 5.2? If not, please explain what should be changed?

A12: Yes.

Q13: Are there further behavioural characteristics that should be expected of someone behaving with integrity in a professional context, other than those listed in paragraph 5.2? If so, what?

A13: No

Q14: Do readers agree with the indicators discussed in 6.7?

A14: Yes.

Q15: Do readers agree that organizations should have clear ethical values and that in all but the smallest organizations this will require the organization to have a code of conduct? If not, please explain your rationale.

A15: Yes.

Q16: Who should be responsible for ensuring that ethical behaviour is embedded in organizations?

A16: Management.

Q17: Is it reasonable to expect professional accountants to promote an ethics-based culture in their organizations? If so, should there be greater guidance and what are the key points that it should include?

A17: Yes. But there should not be more detailed guidance, but the controls and discussions concerning practical implementation of the existing code of ethics.