

Master-
Table 17

Properties of the seven types of ethical rule and associated codes.
 The rule types are those found in the natural moral institutions, but no longer linked to particular identity realms (cf. Master-Fig. 16).
 Note that the immediate source of authority for a rule or code varies with the frame of reference (e.g. employee hierarchy, association, nation).
 See text for further details and examples. For a more general account of the rules, see Master-Table 21.

L	Type of Rule & Code	Function	Application	Changing Rules	Advantages (over Laws)	Common Criticisms	Ethical Disposition
1"	Prescriptions may be organized as a Code of practice	To ensure all know and perform certain social actions strictly as specified.	When people need precise instructions on what to do to avoid harm.	Change is easy because it flows from rational inquiry.	Straightforward; unambiguous; easy to monitor.	Ignores feelings and preferences of the people affected.	Meticulousness
2"	Conventions may be organized as an Ethos	To ensure all know and apply certain attitudes generally in their conduct.	When discretionary action must be constrained in a widely accepted way.	Change emerges because the social group and its values evolve.	Adaptable; feels natural; enables graded adherence.	Too fuzzy and undefined; generates excessive conformity.	Conformity
3"	Tenets may be organized as a Credo	To ensure all know affirm and express certain values in daily life.	When a group needs to strengthen its culture by activating ideals.	Change is difficult because people must be re-socialized.	Powerful; preventative; personally owned.	Too distorting; too emotionally invested; too controlling; too difficult to install.	Dedication
4"	Rights may be organized as a Charter	To ensure all know and respect what is due to and from each individual in a class.	When conflicts due to power imbalances between classes need to be reduced.	Change is opposed because the balance of power is altered.	Less threatening; allows refining; enables gradual acceptance.	Generates conflict; worsens prejudices; fosters extremism.	Respect
5"	Maxims may be organized as a Code of ethics	To ensure all know and meet general requirements for virtuous functioning.	When individuals in society need confidence in the self-control of others.	Change is superficial because the same maxims apply in new situations.	Based in trust; activates virtue; flexible and simple to operate.	Too vague; open to exploitation; too dependent on the individual.	Virtue
6"	Laws may be organized as a System	To ensure all know and obey those rules enforced to maintain a stable social order.	When differences of view on what rules are essential become socially intolerable.	Change is formalized because it must be agreed as a social necessity.	Carefully defined; comprehensive; backed by socially permissible force.	Too pedantic; too mechanical; too complicated; too rigid; too procedural.	Obedience
7"	Absolutes may be organized as The eternal verities	To ensure all know and aspire to the path of duty.	Applicable by any one anywhere at any time.	Change is absent because it is unnecessary.	Universal; immutable; eternal.	Too abstract; too contentless; too uncontrollable.	Autonomy