

Museum Essentials: Working Ethically Quiz Responses

Congratulations on completing the Overview section!

Outlined below are the answers to the questions. If you want more information please visit the Museums Association website: <https://www.museumsassociation.org/home>

Q1 - When should you use the Code of Ethics?

- A) At the beginning of projects or programmes to ensure you are working in an ethical way.
- B) When faced with an ethical dilemma to inform next steps.
- C) During complex decision-making to ensure that the decision has been made ethically.
- D) All of the answers.

The answer is D) All of the answers.

The Museum's Association Code of Ethics for Museums should guide your practice. Embedding the Code of Ethics for Museums and ethical thinking in day to day work ensures the sector works ethically rather than exception.

In a similar way you ensure that your work reflects your own organisation's objectives, your audience, community and accessibility needs reflecting on the Code of Ethics ensures that you are viewing your work through an ethical lens and taking multiple views into consideration to deliver ethically at first rather than at last.

Q2 Which of the following is not a principle of the Code of Ethics?

- A) Stewardship of Collections
- B) Public Engagement and Benefit
- C) Ethical Sponsorship
- D) Individual and Institutional Integrity

The answer is C) Ethical Sponsorship.

There are three principles within the Museums Association's Public Engagement and Benefit, Stewardship of Collections and Individual and Institutional Integrity.

Within each principle are a number of points that provide more detail in relation to working ethically.

Ethical issues associated with sponsorship would relate to principle 3 - Individual and Institutional Integrity, specifically the following point: 3.6 Carefully consider offers of financial support from commercial organisations and other sources in the UK and internationally and seek support from organisations whose ethical values are consistent with those of the museum. Exercise due diligence in understanding the ethical standards of commercial partners with a view to maintaining public trust and integrity in all museum activities.

Q3 What shouldn't you do if you have an ethical question?

- A) Use the Code of Ethics and discuss with colleagues.
- B) Visit the Museums Association's website for additional guidance or case studies that may inform your thinking.
- C) Ignore it and hope it goes away.
- D) Email the Museums Associations for additional support.

The answer is C) Ignore it and hope it goes away – so don't do this.

Even if it does go away, which is unlikely, it is probably going to emerge again as an ethical issue, and so to reflect on the situation and identify how to address it means you will have greater clarity in the future and better practice in the present.

Q4 The Ethics Committee...

- A) develops and promotes the understanding of ethical principles, practice and issues within the museum community.
- B) provides confidential advice on specific issues that arise in individual museums.
- C) acts as a sounding board and critical friend to promote good ethical practice in the museum community.
- D) All of the answers.

The answer is D) All of the answers.

The Ethics Committee exists to support the sector in working with and applying the Museum Association's Code of Ethics for Museum. They adopt a proactive and responsive approach to ethical practice and make reflections and recommendations for action.