**Knowledge Organizer: Ethics and Morality – Year 11**

**1. Ethics:**

* **Definition:**
  + Ethics refers to the study of what is morally right and wrong, guiding human behavior and decision-making.

**2. Understanding Ethical Theories and Dilemmas:**

* **Ethical Theories:**
  + Utilitarianism, Deontology, Virtue Ethics, and Relativism are key ethical frameworks.
  + These theories provide different approaches to determining moral actions.
* **Ethical Dilemmas:**
  + Situations where moral principles conflict, making decisions challenging.
  + Balancing competing values and making ethically sound choices.

**3. The Impossibility of Some Decisions:**

* **Complexity:**
  + Certain situations present dilemmas with no clear morally superior option.
  + Ethical decision-making acknowledges the difficulty of some choices.

**4. Right and Wrong:**

* **Morality's Origin:**
  + Exploration of where moral values come from—religion, societal norms, reason, or a combination.
  + Discussion on the foundation of moral principles.

**5. Absolute and Relative Morality:**

* **Absolute Morality:**
  + Belief in universal, unchanging moral principles.
  + Often associated with deontological ethics.
* **Relative Morality:**
  + Morality shaped by cultural, situational, or personal factors.
  + Often associated with consequentialist and relativistic ethical views.

**6. Intention vs Outcome:**

* **Moral Decision Making:**
  + Examination of whether the morality of an action depends on intent, consequences, or both.
  + Different ethical theories may prioritize either the intention or the outcome.

**7. Conscience:**

* **Role in Morality:**
  + The conscience as an internal moral guide, influencing decision-making.
  + Its connection to moral development and personal responsibility.
* **Implications for the Existence of God:**
  + Exploration of whether the conscience points to a higher moral authority.
  + Consideration of religious perspectives on the conscience.

**Key Themes:**

* **Moral Complexity:** Acknowledgment that some ethical decisions are intricate and challenging.
* **Diversity of Views:** Recognition that ethical theories provide different lenses for approaching moral questions.
* **Personal and Cultural Influence:** Understanding how individual beliefs and cultural contexts shape moral perspectives.
* **Critical Thinking:** Encouraging students to critically analyze and evaluate ethical theories and dilemmas.