The four principles of conscience
Four important principles in developing conscience

It is important that people are able to hear and follow their conscience.

It is a person’s conscience that enables them to take responsibility for their actions.

The four principles of conscience are critical if people are to make right judgments that are based on reason and divine law.
FOUR PRINCIPLES OF CONSCIENCE

You are obliged to form your own conscience

Follow sincere conscience judgments

Conscience does not decide right or wrong

A good end does not justify immoral means
FOUR PRINCIPLES OF CONSCIENCE

You are obliged to form your own conscience.

Every human person needs to develop their ability to listen to and obey their conscience.

1st skill: the ability to learn right from wrong. Jesus’ commandments.

PRACTICE USING YOUR MORAL CONSCIENCE

Recalling God’s laws before acting. Recalling God’s laws after acting.
People are obliged by the Creator to obey what their conscience tells them is the right thing to do.

Conscience can be mistaken.
- misinformed
- lack of good moral education
- pressured by circumstances
- influenced by others
- bad habits.

Follow sincere conscience judgments
ACTIVITY

With the person sitting next to you,

Think of situations where people might do the wrong thing whilst believing they are acting in good conscience.

Have at least one ready to share with the class.
FOUR PRINCIPLES OF CONSCIENCE

Only God knows and determines what is right and wrong.

The role of conscience is to discern whether an action conforms to God’s law.

NO HUMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO DISOBEY GOD.

Conscience does not decide right or wrong.

With the best intentions, people can make honest mistakes in discerning what is right and wrong.
ACTIVITY

INDIVIDUALLY

Read ‘Is this right for me?’ on page 187 of your text book.

Questions?
FOUR PRINCIPLES OF CONSCIENCE

Daily examination of moral conscience allows us to reflect on our actions / behaviour.

In every case that requires moral judgment, a person needs to consider not just the end, but also the way they go about achieving the good end.

A good end does not justify immoral means.

‘Happy ending’ ≠ moral judgment.
EXAMINATION
OF
CONSCIENCE