OCR H573 | INDEPENDENT REVISION

A* Model Essay

Business Ethics

Religion and Ethics

Should respect for persons place limits on a business's pursuit of profit?

1,544 response words | Complete annotated PDF | Individual topic edition

What is included

A complete original response, an argument plan, paragraph-level AO1/AO2 annotations and source works for further reading.

A* describes the intended style of this teaching model. This is independently written, not an OCR-marked script or a guaranteed grade.

Use this model to study argument and evaluation, then write your own answer. Do not submit it as your own assessed work.

Individual-use digital edition | 10 November 2026

Argument plan

Should respect for persons place limits on a business's pursuit of profit?

Thesis: Profit is a legitimate and necessary commercial aim, but it is not a sufficient moral standard. Kantian respect identifies constraints against deception and exploitation, while utilitarian and stakeholder reasoning reveal wider effects that prices and shareholder returns can conceal. Responsible business therefore pursues profit within duties to persons rather than treating every such duty as conditional on financial advantage.

1. Profit sustains productive businesses and managers have responsibilities to owners.

Counter-argument: Those responsibilities do not make all affected people instruments of the owners' returns.

Interim judgement: Friedman's strongest case supports disciplined management, not unrestricted pursuit of profit.

2. Kantian respect and universalisation identify limits on manipulation and exploitative contracts.

Counter-argument: Respect does not supply a complete commercial policy or remove genuine trade-offs.

Interim judgement: Moral constraints remain useful even when further practical judgement is needed.

3. Consequences and stakeholder interests justify attention to supply chains, communities and whistleblowing.

Counter-argument: Aggregation and public-relations incentives can conceal sacrifice and greenwashing.

Interim judgement: Welfare assessment should inform decisions within accountable protections for persons.