



JFK
(41)

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE

EXAMINATIONS OF APRIL/MAY 2018

Code and Name of Course: INFO3425: Professional Ethics and Law

Paper:

Date and Time: *Thursday 10th May 2018* 1pm Duration: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES: This paper has 4 pages and 6 questions

Answer *all* questions.

Questions are not evenly weighted.



1. Ethics affects how people make decisions and lead their lives. Ethics is concerned with what is good for individuals and society and is also described as moral philosophy.
 - (a) What is meant by the terms: *cyber technology* and *cyber ethics*? [2]
 - (b) What is *law*? [2]
 - (c) List five (5) *differences* between ethics and law. [5]
 - (d) Give an example of an act that is *legal* but *not ethical*. [1]

Total Marks: 10

2. Consider the following scenario.

A policy is under consideration in a lawmaking body in the country of Peonsia, where 1% of the population would be forced to work as serfs in an engineering facility to produce computer chips. Advocates of this policy argue that adopting this policy into law would result in lower prices for electronic devices for shoppers in Peonsia. They argue that it would also likely result in more overall happiness for the nation's citizens because the remaining 99% of the population, who are not enslaved, would be able to purchase electronic devices and other computer-based products at a much lower price. Hence, 99% of Peonsia's population benefit at the expense of the remaining 1%. This policy clearly seems consistent with the principle of producing the greatest good for the greatest number of Peonsia's population.

- (a) Why do governments often use *utilitarian* thinking to determine the proper course of action? [2]
- (b) The scenario above illustrates the theory of *act utilitarianism*. What is *act utilitarianism*? [2]
- (c) What major *flaw* does the above scenario illustrate regarding act utilitarianism? [3]
- (d) How would a *rule utilitarian* reason in the case? [5]

Total Marks: 12

3. *Is it morally right for police detectives to entrap pedophiles by posing as children in chat rooms and agreeing to meet with them?*

Narrate a response to the above question from a social contract theory perspective. [8]

Total Marks: 8



4. To balance the exclusive controls given to copyright holders against the broader interests of society, two provisions have been developed: *fair use* and *first sale*.

- (a) What is the *fair use* principle? Why is it important to the computer industry? [2]
- (b) By giving an example, explain what the *first sale principle* is. [2]
- (c) What is *whistle-blowing*? What *harms* does it cause? What *benefits* may it provide? [6]

Total Marks: 10

5. Paul Thomas calls the Department of Computer Science seeking advice on how to improve the security of his business's local area network. A secretary in the department routes his call to Professor Jack Doe, an internationally recognized expert in the field. Professor Doe answers several questions posed by Mr. Thomas regarding network security. Upon asking Professor Doe to recommend a software package to identify security problems, Mr Thomas is informed that BeA!ert got the personal computer magazine's highest ratings. Professor Doe fails to mention the same magazine gave a "best buy" rating to another product with fewer features but a much lower price. He also fails to mention that BeA!ert is a product of a spin-off company that she owns 10 percent.

- (a) State four (4) *functions* that professional codes of ethics serve? [4]
- (b) Use the *alternative list of fundamental principles* for an information technology-related profession, to list the principles that are relevant to the moral problem described above and determine whether the action taken is ethical. [8]

Total Marks: 12

This space is left intentionally blank.



6. Google Inc., perhaps the most well-known search engine company in the world, also owns and/or operates several subsidiary services and Web-based applications. These include, Gmail, Google Maps, Google+, Google Calendar, Google Chrome, Picasa, Adsense/Adwords, and so forth. In the past, each had its own privacy policy. In 2012, however, Google replaced the individual policies with one comprehensive privacy policy across all of its services. When it implemented this change, Google also announced that the company would share user account data across all its services. It has been noted by critics that a user's search engine history could be shared with YouTube, or vice versa, and that a user's Google+ account data might be shared with Adwords to generate more targeted advertising.

Discuss why Google's new privacy policy, while explicit and transparent, has nonetheless been controversial.

[8]

Total Marks: 8

Total Marks: 60

END OF EXAM