

UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERISTY

Faculty of Science

Programme: Diploma in Computer Science and Information Technology

Course Unit: Ethics in an I.T. Environment

Final Assessment

Year of Study: 2

Academic Year: 2021-2022

Date: 21st July 2022

Time: 2.00 – 5.00 p.m.

Instructions

1. *Carefully read through all the questions before making your choice.*
2. *Answer two questions of your choice from Section A, and two questions from Section B. All questions carry equal marks: 25.*
3. *Clearly indicate the number you are answering and ensure that your work is clear and readable.*
4. *Do not use "bullet-style" in your answers. Make an effort to connect your ideas in grammatically sound English.*

Section A: General Concepts of Ethics [50 marks]

Question 1 [25 marks]

Ethics is a subject that is valued at Uganda Martyrs University so much that it is included in all programmes offered by the university.

- a. How would you, as a student who has taken an introductory course in ethics, define ethics? How does "ethics" differ from "morality"? **(10 marks)**
- b. List and describe the main branches of ethics. Indicate, with reasons, the branch of ethics that you find most relevant for you. **(15 marks)**

Question 2 [25 marks]

Ethics pays special attention to human conduct and evaluates what we do, from the perspective of what ought to be done. Our actions can broadly be divided into two categories: "acts of man" and "human acts".

- a. Explain, with a fitting example, what is meant by "acts of man". Evaluate the relevance of "acts of man" in the field of ethics. **(10 marks)**
- b. Explain, with a good example, what we mean by "human acts", and explain fully the basic characteristics of "human acts". **(15 marks)**

Question 3 [25 marks]

In evaluating human conduct, we are often interested in determining the responsibility of the human actor (otherwise called the moral agent).

- a. Discuss any three factors (modifiers) of your choice and demonstrate how each of them limits personal responsibility. **(15 marks)**
- b. Which of the modifiers you have chosen are likely to be applicable in your field as a future IT worker? Give sufficient explanation for your answer. **(10 marks)**

Question 4 [25 marks]

Consequentialism is one of the major theories of ethics, but it encompasses several types. What, in general, is consequentialism and what are its key characteristics? **(5 marks)**

- a. Give a brief definition, with a relevant example, of each of the following:
 - i. Utilitarianism **(4 marks)**
 - ii. Ethical Altruism **(4 marks)**
 - iii. Ethical Egoism **(4 marks)**
- b. How would the above theories of consequentialism guide you as a future IT worker? **(8 marks)**

Section B: Computer Ethics [50 marks]

Question 5 [25 marks]

James H. Moor is among the pioneer scholars to see a need for computer ethics in the present Information Age.

- a. What definition does Moor propose for computer ethics? **(5 marks)**
- b. What reasons does Moor give for need to have computer ethics? **(10 marks)**
- c. What is meant by the "invisibility factor" and how does it affect a person working with computers? **(10 marks)**

Question 6 [25 marks]

There are many challenges that everybody working with computers connected to Internet is likely to face.

- a. Define the following and explain the difficulties/dangers they pose in cyberspace:
 - i. Data mining (5 marks)
 - ii. Hacking (5 marks)
 - iii. Cyber-stalking (5 marks)
- b. How best, as someone with a good knowledge of information technology, would you deal with the above difficulties? (10 marks)

Question 7 [25 marks]

James H. Moor, in his seminal article, "Computer Ethics" has examined the reality of cyborgs and ethical challenges they are likely raise.

- a. What do you understand by a "cyborg"? What would the characteristics of a cyborg be? (5 marks)
- b. What are the advantages of developing cyborgs? (10 marks)
- c. Discuss the ethical difficulties that cyborgs are likely to present. (10 marks)