

UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY

Ethics in Focus Evening

Class: Lubaga -2018

Examiner: Dr. Mutyaba Emmanuel

Instructions:

- (a) Read carefully each question before attempting it.
- (b) The paper has Two sections:
 - For section A attempt any three questions. Each question carries 20 marks.
 - For section B contains one compulsory question which carries 40 marks.

Section A

1. Professionalism

- (a) Who is a professional? **(10 marks)**
- (b) Why should we seek to be professionals in our job? **(10 marks)**

Political ethics

- 2. How would you respond to someone who argues that “all those who commit great offences to humanity such as murder, rape, and the rest, they should be eliminated from society by death penalty since they have reduced themselves to the life of ferocious animals which are a threat to human beings; otherwise what if justice for?” **(20 marks)**

Social ethics

- 3. “As free people, everybody has the liberty to choose what is good or bad for him. If I chose to live a life of alcoholism or of drug addiction it is my liberty.”
 - (a) Clarify on the distinction between liberty and freedom **(10 marks)**
 - (b) Why should we care for the wellbeing of others? **(10 marks)**
- 4. Ethicists argue that freedom of expression does not entail viewing and distributing pornography. Why is this argument correct? **(20 Marks)**

Sexual ethics

5. Do you agree with the school sexual counselor who advises students to masturbate in order to avoid the temptation of fornication? Why or why not? **(20 marks)**
6. Explain why fornication done between two consented adults is still immoral **(20 marks)**
7. Why is prostitution immoral? **(20 marks)**
8. Develop an argument for the immorality of homosexuality/lesbianism. **(20 marks)**

Section B (40 marks)

- Read carefully the following article.
- Critically analyze it using the ethical principles learnt in class.
- Suggest ways how such cases could best be ethically handled.

Euthanasia: Terri Schiavo' case

Terri Schiavo entered a vegetative state in 1990 for undetermined reasons, possibly related to her long-term, untreated bulimia. In this persistent vegetative state she remained the last fifteen years of her life. Both Schiavo's doctors and her court-appointed doctors expressed the opinion that there existed no hope of rehabilitation. Her husband, Michael Schiavo, contended that it was his wife's wish that she not be kept alive through unnatural, mechanical means.

More than twenty times the Schiavo case was heard in Florida courts. On all occasions the court ruled that Terri's fate was under her husband's control, respecting the sanctity of marriage. Schiavo's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, refused to accept this verdict, feeling that their daughter would somehow recover. Of this struggle, Schiavo's attorney George Felos told the US District Court, "The real grievance is not they [the Schindlers] did not have a day in court, that they did not have due process. The real grievance is they disagree with the result."

In 2003, a court-appointed guardian for Schiavo wrote that during the protracted legal struggle, her parents had "voiced the disturbing belief that they would keep Theresa alive at any and all costs", even if that required amputation of her limbs. "As part of the hypothetical presented", the guardian's report stated, "Schindler family members stated that even if Theresa had told them of her intention to have artificial nutrition withdrawn, they would not do it."

Politicians inserted themselves into the fray. The case was the catalyst for Florida's controversial "Terri's Law", which gave Gov. Jeb Bush the authority to have Schiavo's feeding tube re-inserted when a court ruled that her husband could have it removed. The U.S. Congress quickly passed legislation allowing federal courts to intervene, and President George W. Bush flew back to Washington to sign the bill into law. It should be noted that

this is the same George W. Bush who, as Governor of Texas, signed into state law the power of hospitals to remove a patient (in identical situations as Terri's) from life support -- a critical factor being the family's ability to *pay the hospital bills* -- even if such removal was *against the family's objections*.

Schiavo's feeding tube was finally removed on March 18, 2005, and she passed away 13 days later.

In a final postscript to Schiavo's life, the autopsy conducted after her death established that her brain weighed half that of a healthy human brain -- severe damage that left her blind and incapable of thought or emotion. Quoting the medical examiner: "This damage was irreversible. No amount of therapy or treatment would have regenerated the massive loss of neurons."

Good Luck!