United International University
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
SOC 2101: Soc., Tech. and Engg. Ethics   Mid Term Exam. : Fall 2020

Total Marks: 20   Time: 1 hour

Any examinee found adopting unfair means will be expelled from
the trimester / program as per UIU disciplinary rules.

Answer all the 3 questions. Numbers to the right of the questions denote their marks.

1. (a) "A global pandemic such as COVID-19 has a greater positive impact than that of its negative impact towards the environment"- what is your standpoint on the statement and why?   [3]

   (b) Under extreme water crisis for the last several years, 80 million population in *Dryland* has been severely affected by depleting water levels. What are the major irresponsible human actions that could be root causes for such consequence to the environment?   [3]

2. (a) Sayem, a young software engineer worked for a hospital management unit. He was assigned to work with the people in the intensive care unit (ICU). The computer group was working on the interface between a piece of commercial data processing software and various units in the ICU, including real-time patient monitoring devices. The computer group is not strong enough in terms of experience and education. They were significantly lagging behind the schedule when they provide feedback with test results. Sayem observed that some of the group members are providing results without even test properly to mitigate the schedule gap. After knowing the activities regarding the test result, Sayem argued strongly against the steps and asked the top management to take serious action for the attainment. However, the top management showed negligence about this matter as if they endorse the activities.

   Which principles of ACM Code of Ethics have been violated by the above case study? According to the ACM Code of Ethics, should Sayem continue to work for this department? Explain with proper justification.   [4]

   (b) During the coronavirus outbreak, many people in Bangladesh have lost their job and shelter. At that time, a number of volunteering organizations have come forward to help the people in need by either fundraising in a systematic way and providing foods and necessary materials to the needy people. 'Bidyanondo' and 'JAAGO Foundation' are the organizations that have come up with innovative plans to help the unprivileged people. Moreover, we have seen many social media users have also come forward to help the people with low income.

   Are we morally obliged to help the people who are in need during this pandemic? Can we think the above situation from ethical perspective? If we can, then does it fall into meta, normative or applied ethics? Why? [3]

3. (a) "Evolution of technology is the main factor behind the evolution of society." Do you agree with this statement? Briefly explain your answer with examples.   [2]

   (b) The Walt Disney Company is one of the top companies in the world that does aggressive activities for its corporate social responsibilities (CSR). As part of it, the company took the following steps in the year of 2019:

   - Disney started a 50+ megawatt solar energy plant in Orlando to facilitate electricity for two of the four Walt Disney Worlds in the USA.
   - Disney started the *Disney Aspire program* to support the long-term career goals of its cast members and employees through education.
   - Disney continued its Disney VoluntEARS program that involves its employees and casts members in various community activities.
   - The company employs people regardless of their color, race and gender. In 2019, 44% of its US employees were people of color, and 52% of its global employees are female.
   - In 2019, Disney gave $338.2 million in cash and in-kind donations to nonprofit organizations that work for children, community and social well-being.

   Mention the SDGs with brief explanation which are contributing by these CSR activities.   [5]