

Course Name: Ethics in Engineering Practice

Assignment - Week 2

TYPE OF QUESTION: MCQ/MSQ

Number of questions: 10

Total marks: 10 X 1 = 10

QUESTION 1:

John is a software engineer who works for a company that specializes in creating software for government agencies. John's team has been working on a project for a government agency for the past year. The project involves creating software that will be used to monitor internet activity and identify potential security threats. The software has the ability to monitor and record all internet activity, including emails, chats, and browsing history.

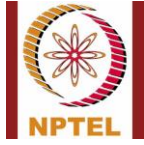
John's manager has instructed him to include a feature in the software that will allow the agency to access the personal emails and chats of individuals who are suspected of being a security threat, without a warrant or court order. John is uncomfortable with this request as he believes it violates the privacy of individuals and may be illegal. However, he is also afraid of losing his job if he refuses to comply with his manager's request.

What is the ethical dilemma John is facing in this situation?

- a) Whether to follow his manager's instructions or not
- b) Whether to prioritize his personal beliefs or his job security
- c) Whether to report his manager's request to higher authorities or not
- d) Whether to prioritize the privacy of individuals or the security of the country

Correct Answer : d

Detailed Answer: Ethical (or moral) dilemmas are situations in which moral reasons come into



conflict, or in which the applications of moral values are unclear, and it is not immediately obvious what should be done. Ethical dilemmas arise in engineering, as elsewhere, because moral values are many and varied and can make competing claims.

QUESTION 2:

Lena is a financial analyst who works for a large investment bank. Her job involves analyzing the financial performance of different companies and making recommendations to clients about which companies they should invest in. Lena's husband is the CEO of one of the companies she is currently analyzing. Lena has a good relationship with her husband and trusts his business acumen, but she is concerned that her personal relationship with him could create a conflict of interest.

What is a conflict of interest here?

- a) A situation where an employee has a vested interest in a particular outcome that could compromise their objectivity or loyalty to their employer
- b) A situation where two parties disagree on a particular issue
- c) A situation where an employee is not performing their duties effectively
- d) A situation where an employee is not following the company's code of conduct

Correct Answer: a

Conflict of interest

Detailed Answer: Conflict of interest or is in a conflict of interest position when that party _ Is in a position of *trust* that requires the *exercise of judgment on behalf of others* (people, institutions, etc.)

_ Has interests, obligations, or responsibilities of the sort that *might* interfere with the exercise of such judgment, and

_ Having those interests is neither *obvious* nor *usual* for others in the same position of trust.



QUESTION 3:

Why is trustworthiness a justification for maintaining confidentiality?

- a) It promotes public awareness about sensitive information
- b) It ensures that employees do not breach their contracts
- c) It is an expectation of clients when seeking professional services
- d) It increases competition among professionals

Correct Answer: c

Detailed Answer: Trustworthiness is also one of the justifications for maintaining confidentiality. When clients go to attorneys or tax accountants or even doctors they expect them to maintain confidentiality, and the professional ethics indicate that confidentiality will be maintained. Similarly, employees often make promises (in the form of signing contracts) not to divulge certain information considered sensitive by the employer. Revealing the relevant information would surely account for the breach of trust.

QUESTION 4:

What is the primary justification for maintaining confidentiality?

- a) To maintain a competitive advantage in the market
- b) To respect the autonomy of individuals and corporations and recognize their control over private information.
- c) To promote trustworthiness among professionals
- d) To increase public awareness about sensitive information

Correct Answer: b

Detailed Answer: The primary justification for maintaining confidentiality is to respect the autonomy of individuals and corporations and recognize their control over private information.



QUESTION 5:

The Sydney Shipping Corporation of late came under the radar of stringent investigation as one of its Production manager Mr. George approached the head of the Battle for Sustenance, one of the environmental advocacy groups and handed over him a document stating the issue duly signed by him. He alerted that the corporation has been dumping raw sewage into the river, which is unethical as the river water is used by nearby villages for domestic purposes. The above-mentioned case is example of:

- a) Anonymous whistleblowing
- b) **Acknowledged whistleblowing**
- c) Kick-backing
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: b

Acknowledged whistleblowing

Detailed Answer: Mr George has signed the document while approaching the advocacy group so it is not anonymous one.

QUESTION 6:

Why do government organizations in the Defense sector have more stringent rules regarding confidentiality?

- a) **They are dealing with sensitive and classified information related to national security.**
- b) They do not want to share their business strategies with other companies.
- c) They want to maintain a competitive advantage in the market.
- d) They want to protect their employees' personal information from enemies.

Correct Answer: a

Detailed Answer:



Government organizations in the Defense sector have more stringent rules regarding confidentiality because they are dealing with sensitive and classified information related to national security. The information they handle can be critical to the safety and well-being of the country, so it is essential that this information is kept confidential and not shared with unauthorized parties. Unauthorized access to classified information can pose a significant risk to national security, as it can be used to harm the country or its citizens. Therefore, government organizations in the Defense sector have more stringent rules and security measures in place to protect this information, and those who work in these organizations are required to sign non-disclosure agreements to prevent any unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information.

QUESTION 7:

What is the significance of the clause of confidentiality in the engineering codes of ethics?

- a) It is a new principle introduced in the engineering profession
- b) It applies only to a few engineering professions. S1 and S2 are erroneous
- c) It is a well-established principle in other professions such as medicine and law as well.
- d) It applies only to the clients who are individuals, not companies.

Correct Answer: c

Detailed Answer: It is a well-established principle in other professions such as medicine and law as well.



QUESTION 8:

“An individual’s gender, race, skin colour, age, or political or religious outlook should not at all affect how they are perceived at work”, this captures the essence of:

- a) Right to Free work
- b) Rights ethics
- c) Right to Equal Opportunity at work
- d) None of these

Correct Answer: C

Detailed Answer: This captures the essence of non-discrimination- Right to Equal Opportunity at work.

QUESTION 9:

Whether the following statement is true or false:

‘Rule utilitarianism’ differs from ‘act utilitarianism’ in holding that moral rules are most important.

- a) True
- b) False

Correct Answer: a

Detailed Answer: Act utilitarianism focuses on individual actions rather than on rules. The best known proponent of act utilitarianism was John Stuart Mill (1806–1873), who felt that most of the common rules of morality (e.g., don’t steal, be honest, don’t harm others) are good guidelines derived from centuries of human experience.

Rule utilitarianism differs from act utilitarianism in holding that moral rules are most important. As mentioned previously, these rules include “do not harm others” and “do not steal.” Rule utilitarians hold that although adhering to these rules might not always maximize good in a particular situation, overall, adhering to moral rules will ultimately lead to the most good.



QUESTION 10:

Professional responsibilities of an Engineer includes, (select the most appropriate option)

1. Maintaining Confidentiality and Proprietary Information
2. Avoiding conflict of interest
3. Restrictions in competitive bidding
4. Participation in cross trading

- a) Only 1 and 2
- b) Only 1, 2, and 3
- c) Only 4
- d) All 1, 2, 3, and 4

Correct Answer: b

Detailed Answer: Confidentiality and Proprietary Information, Conflict of Interest and Competitive Bidding are the basic professional responsibilities of an Engineer.

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