



## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### Philosophy Department Final Term Examinations in Social Issues and Professional Practices SECOND Semester AY 2021-2022

#### I. General Directions:

1. Write your full name, year/section and major in the answer sheet.
2. Use the following Technical Specification: 12 TNR, 1 inch margin on all sides, Short Bond & 1.5 Spacing
3. Always remember that "**Honesty is still the best policy**". Duplicated works **would mean zero** for all students involved. Make sure that your work is **80% to 100% original and not plagiarized. No points will be given to overly plagiarized works.**
4. Kindly observe proper citation (In-text citation + References). You may use APA or MLA style of referencing and citing sources.
5. Read the directions very carefully. Failure to follow directions will mean failure in the examinations.

#### II. ESSAY

##### A. Instructions:

Analyze the following ethical scenarios and supply the best ethical choice possible. Answer directly but use ethical theories, principles, or legal basis to justify your chosen course of action. Use the answer sheet below. No need to copy the problems. Just indicate the # of the chosen ethical scenario. **Answer 5 problems only.**

##### SCENARIO # 1

Rachel works as a Quality Assurance Engineer at a large electronics company. She is responsible for the final testing of her company's servers and is part of a team which decides when new products will be shipped to distributors for sale.

Rachel's company has a contract with another company which makes the chips which are incorporated into the servers Rachel's company makes. The business model for this product is to release a new generation server approximately every six months, meaning Rachel has a limited timeframe to conduct her Quality Control tests.

Because there is such a short amount of time between the release of each next new product, the Quality and Assurance department cannot perform every possible test on the servers to ensure they are defect free. Rachel will not ship a product if there is any possibility that the server could malfunction and cause physical harm to the customer. However, she will ship a product that has a higher likelihood of failure resulting in data loss for the customer, because she knows that if she doesn't, her company's competitor will.

Is this an ethical way to conduct business? How should she determine when to ship a product with known defects?



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### SCENARIO #2

SDX Alliance is a large company that sells computers, computer components, and software. Ralph is hired as an entry-level software engineer at SDX Alliance. His first project was to assist in writing the code for SDX Alliance's new hard disc controller. He had previously worked on a similar system interning at a start-up and had written a code which greatly enhanced the performance of their product. Ralph quietly re-uses this same code in the SDX Alliance product, and does not think to tell anyone that he has used the code from his last job. His manager is thrilled with the speed improvements this code brings to the product.

Before the product is released, it has to undergo a four-month long quality assurance process review. During the review of the product, it was found the code which Ralph developed had been copyrighted by the startup he had previously worked for. Even though Ralph had developed the code, his previous company still owned the intellectual property rights to it.

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When his manager informed Ralph of the problem, Ralph admits he did not realize he had made a mistake because he was not familiar with copyright laws. Ralph then goes on to explain that the start-up he used to work for is now out of business and is unsure if SDX Alliance would be able to get in contact with the owner of the copyright. If SDX Alliance can't use Ralph's code, then it will have to rewrite the entire code of the product, delaying its release by many months.

What should they do?

### SCENARIO # 3

As a technical sales engineer, Avery is responsible for selling her company's integrated circuit test systems. Each of these systems costs approximately one million dollars and Avery's sales goals are to sell at least ten of these systems per revenue quarter.

These sales expectations are in place because Avery's company is trying to go public (IPO). In order to do so, they must be profitable for five quarters in a row. Therefore, there is enormous pressure from the company's investors and board to meet the assigned sales goals.

As the end of the fifth quarter approaches, Avery realizes she is one sale short of reaching her goal. When she approaches her manager to let him know that she will not be meeting her goals, he explains to her a way to get around the problem. He tells her that when he was a sales engineer, he would approach customers who he knew would soon be purchasing a system. He would get the customer to place the order and receive a price discount if they come to the factory, be shown an empty shell of a system that was not yet built, and sign paperwork documenting their acceptance of the unbuilt system as if it was already built. That way the order could count as part of this quarter's profits, but the customer would not have to pay for the order until the next quarter.

Avery's manager explains that although this practice of falsifying sales reports is now illegal, when he was a salesperson the practice was a common way of meeting sales goals. Additionally, he suggests to Avery that he would look the other way if she were to falsify a customer acceptance report and reminds her that the company will only be able to go public if she meets her sales goal. If she fails to meet her goal, the IPO will be postponed at least a year and so will her IPO profits and the profits of all the other employees and shareholders.



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What should Avery do?

### SCENARIO # 4

Data-Time Inc. is a company which manages databases for a large city in Colorado. Included in these databases is information collected from the city's homeless shelters and free clinics. Specifically, the databases contain personal information of the users of these services over the past 10 years; this includes people's Social Security numbers and health records.

This data is highly secure and only accessible to the employees of Data-Time Inc. Employees are given a laptop when they are hired which allows them to access the database remotely. Unfortunately, one of these laptops is stolen and the security of the database is compromised.

A majority of the people whose information was compromised are homeless. Therefore there is no easy way to contact them in order to alert them of the security breach. **How should Data-Time Inc. manage this breach in security?**

### SCENARIO # 5

Anne is an established electrical engineer at Onerous, a computer hardware company. Not a stranger to incidences of favoritism the company, Anne recently encountered a particularly unfavorable scenario involving a few of her close co-workers.

Two employees, who had been newly hired, were given visible roles in a prominent project. Upon the project's successful completion, the new-hires were given generous promotions by management. On the other hand, Anne's co-workers were asked to play supporting roles in the project, and were not given any special recognition (i.e., promotions) for their work.

Anne's non-confrontational co-workers were angry and came to Anne for advice since they knew she had broad professional experience. They told her that they were going to leave the company if management did not stop playing favorites.

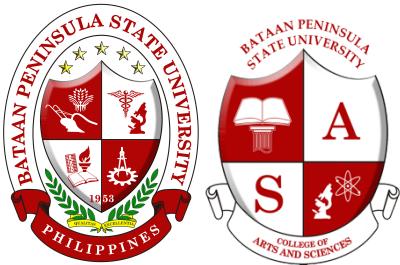
Although strongly inclined to bring this matter up to her manager, Anne felt like doing so would be futile because her manager is stubborn and inflexible. **How should Anne deal with this situation?**

### SCENARIO # 6

Marcus is a computer engineer who has recently developed an app which helps users keep track of medical information, doctor's appointments, and prescriptions.

Information about the user is stored in this app, including what prescriptions they are taking and how frequently they schedule doctor's appointments. As the developers of the app, Marcus and his company have access to this information.

The marketing department requests Marcus supply them with customer-specific information so they can better target ads and app suggestions to the users. Marcus understands that he is part of a company, but also feels that the privacy of the app users should be protected. Additionally, Marcus feels that as an engineer, he should be responsible to those who use his technology.



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How does Marcus determine how much of the user's information should be shared with marketing? Is this an ethical use of information or a violation of the user's privacy?

### SCENARIO # 7

Sherry has been working at a computer hardware company for over 25 years. In recent years, many recent college graduates (approximately 100 per year) have been hired into the company. This year, 3 new hires were introduced into her group.

Occasionally, Sherry must train these hires by leading technical workshops and giving one-on-one advice. However, she feels that, instead of growing from within, the company has spent a lot of resources finding young and talented employees to increase its development of new products. Although she is not a manager, established employees, like her, must often assume responsibility for these hires. Sherry is unhappy because she feels that the time used to train these new employees could have been spent completing her projects.

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Sherry wants to bring her concerns up to her manager or ethics department, but is unsure if it is necessary. What should she do?

### SCENARIO# 8

Catherine is a new hire at a startup that produces LCD displays for large venues, such as shopping malls. Part of her job requires her to troubleshoot malfunctioning displays.

One day, a shopping mall reported that two display units out of twelve had stopped working from their installation three months prior. The customer also noted serial and revision numbers on the two units were different from the rest of the units.

At the job site, Catherine inspected the displays and realized her company had sold units that were from a bad batch (i.e. group of displays that did not have over 50% yield during manufacturing). Catherine wanted to tell the site why the units failed, but recognized that if she disclosed this information, the site would be eligible to receive replacement displays at no additional cost. On the other hand, if she blamed the failing units on a weaker cause, such as improper installation, her company would be able to charge the site for replacement units.

Catherine knew her manager would want her to choose the option that would minimize the company's losses; however, she wanted to be honest with the site as they were one of the company's best customers.

What should she do?

#### DISCLAIMER ALERT:

The shared ethical scenarios specifically for computing professionals were taken from Markkula Center for Applied Ethics accessed at <https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/more-focus-areas/engineering-ethics/engineering-ethics-cases/computer-engineering-cases/> and are used for educational purpose only.



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ANSWER SHEET (EXTEND THE PAGE/S IF NECESSARY)

NAME:

PROGRAM, YR.& COURSE:

SCENARIO #

### MAIN CAMPUS

Capitol Compound, Tenejero, City of Balanga, Bat

SCENARIO #

SCENARIO #



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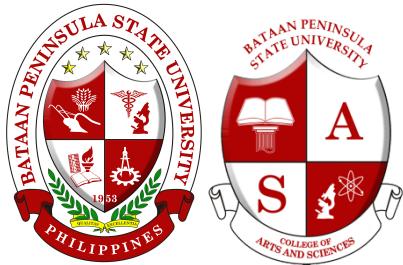
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SCENARIO #

### MAIN CAMPUS

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SCENARIO#



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### B. Rubrics: Please read this part. This is how you will be rated.

#### ETHICAL REASONING COMPETENCY RUBRICS

Objectives	Mastering	Advancing	Developing	Beginning
<b>Articulate Ethical Values</b>	Discusses in detail and analyzes both ethical beliefs and the origins of core beliefs, and discussion has greater depth and clarity. Engages in discussions with greater depth and clarity while respecting other viewpoints.	Discusses in detail and analyzes both ethical beliefs and the origins of core beliefs. .	Articulates both ethical beliefs and the origins of core beliefs.	The student is unable to articulate either ethical beliefs and the origins of core beliefs. <b>MAIN CAMPUS</b> Capitol Compound, Tenejero, City of Balanga, Bataan, Philippines.
<b>Evaluate Different Ethical Perspectives/Concepts</b>	States a position, and can state and defend against the objections to, assumptions, and implications of different ethical perspectives, concepts, and, the student's defense is adequate and effective.	States a position, and can state and defend against the objections to, assumptions, and implications of different ethical perspectives, concepts, and, the student's defense is inadequate.	States a position, and can state and defend against the objections to, assumptions, and implications of different ethical perspectives, concepts, and, the student's defense is inadequate.	States a position, but cannot state the objections to assumptions and limitations of the different perspectives/concepts.
<b>Discuss Ethical Issues</b>	Recognizes ethical issues when presented in a complex context and elaborates the situation based on given facts of the scenario	Recognizes ethical issues when presented in a complex context with the limited elaboration of the situation based on given facts of the scenario	Recognizes ethical issues when presented in a complex context with the inadequate presentation of the complexities of an ethical scenario.	Did not provide any elaboration and was unable to recognize ethical issues in particular scenarios.

**Source:**

Rollins College Ethical Reasoning Competency Rubric,  
<https://www.stetson.edu/administration/career/media/Rollins%20College%20Ethical%20Reasoning%20Competency%20Rubric.pdf>

Note: Some parts are modified to suit the needs of this class.

\*\*\*End\*\*\*

*Prepared by:*

*Approved*



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