



METHODIST UNIVERSITY GHANA

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FACULTY OF SCIENCE

DAPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

AND

MATHEMATICAL SCIENCE

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS, 2024/2025

MUIT 423: PROFESSIONAL, LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN COMPUTING (3 Credits)

SATURDAY – 23 NOVEMBER, 2024

TWO (2) HOURS

Answer ANY THREE questions in Section A

And ANY THREE questions in Section B

SECTION A (30 MARKS)

ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

Question 1

Which incident has a greater negative impact on an organization—an unethical act performed by an hourly worker or the same act performed by a senior manager of the organization? Explain your answer fully. Should the hourly worker be treated differently than the senior manager who committed the unethical act? Why or why not? (10 marks)

Question 2

- a. How might anonymous expression be seen to encourage free expression? (4 marks)
- b. Give three instances where anonymous expression might be for the public good. (6 marks)

Question 3

Is every action that is legal also ethical? Can you describe an action that is legal but ethically wrong? Is every ethical action also legal? Is the law, not ethics, the only guide that business managers need to consider? Explain (10 marks)

Question 4

- a. Give a summary of main argument against hacking from legal, professional and ethical perspective. (6 marks)
- b. Do computer professional have special moral responsibilities that ordinary computer users do not have? If so what are some of those responsibilities? (4 marks)

SECTION B (30MARKS)

Answer any THREE QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

Question 5

The Internet and Free Speech:

The Internet has raised a whole range of new questions and issues regarding appropriate content and appropriate regulation of that content in different contexts. Among the most problematic forms of speech on the Internet have been pornography, hate speech and forms of expression connected with terrorism or political dissent. However, many of the challenges posed by the Internet are the result of the characteristics of the Internet itself. Quinn (2004)

Explain the FIVE characteristics which have made censorship more difficult. (10 marks)

Question 6

- How do you distinguish between a gift and a bribe? Provide an example of a "gift" that falls in the gray area between a gift and a bribe (5 marks)
- What do you think motivates a hacker to attempt to break into computers to probe their defenses? (5 marks)

Question 7

- You have been assigned to be a computer security trainer for all of your firm's 2,000 employees, contractors, and part-time workers. What are the key topics you would cover in your training program? (5 marks)
- Name the three principal forms of legal protection for intellectual property, explaining the differences between them, and giving examples of each from the computing field. (5 marks)

Question 8

- Explain the concept that an idea cannot be copyrighted, but the expression of an idea can be, and why this distinction is a key to understanding copyright protection (5 marks)
- Discuss the ways in which a software manufacturer can protect the unauthorized use of its software. Which do you think is the best way for a software manufacturer to protect new software? Why (5 marks)

Question 9

- What is 'theft of computer time' and why is it considered a 'grey area', ethically? (5 marks)
- What factors have contributed to the general increase in the amount of computer crime? (5 marks)