



**RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES**

**B.Sc. (General) Degree in Information and Communication Technology
Third Year - Semester I Examination – Nov/Dec 2016**

ICT 3207 - PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND ETHICS

Answer All Questions.

This is a closed book examination

Time: 2 Hours

1.

- a) Some define Professionalism in a particular field as knowing what's to be done, when it is to be done and actually doing it. Discuss this statement in the light of other definitions and the characteristics of professions that we have studies. (5 Marks)
- b) Discuss the role of professional bodies in regulating a profession. (5 Marks)
- c) The Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) has been very much in the news recently in due to their lobbies about a number of issues concerning the medical professions. Discuss the role of the GMOA with respect to the medical profession. (5 Marks)
- d) Anyone, including school kids could be producing computer applications for use by the society at large. However these individuals may not have all the attributes of professionals as discussed during the lectures. How does this impact the consideration of Information Technology as a formal profession? (5 Marks)
- e) At times ICT professionals may have to refrain from doing certain things that are technologically possible as it may not be in the public good. Discuss this statement with suitable examples. (5 marks)

2.

Ajith is an expert in computer security. He is able to identify security vulnerabilities in a computer system and knows how to exploit them. Recently he was looking at the website of XYZ (Pvt) Ltd. and he noticed certain vulnerabilities. Having seen this he could not resist the urge to use the vulnerabilities to

break into the web site. However this was just for his intellectual satisfaction and having broken in; Ajith did no harm. He also did not tell anyone about the vulnerability or about his own break into the site.

a) Use the informal tests to make an initial judgement about the ethics of Ajith's action. (5 marks)

b) Analyze Ajith's actions in terms of the following formal Ethical theories .

- a. Consequentialism
- b. Rights and Duties
- c. Virtue Ethics
- d. The two forms of the Kant's Categorical Imperative (3 marks each x 5 = 15 Marks)

c) Having seen the vulnerabilities in XYZ 's website, as a true ICT professional should Ajith have handled this situation differently? If so how? (5 Marks)

3.

a) Privacy and Confidentiality are two important concepts to be respected by an ICT professional in the course of his/ her professional work.

- i. Explain the difference between Privacy and Confidentiality. (5 Marks)
- ii. Explain why these two concepts are important for an ICT professional. (5 Marks)
- iii. Explain the role of a Non-Disclosure Agreement. (5 Marks)

b) Conflict of Interest is a topic covered in most Codes of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

- i. Explain what we mean by a conflict of interest. Illustrate your answer with a simple example where there could be a potential conflict of interest. (5 Marks)
- ii. What is the recommended method to handle a potential conflict of interest? (5 Marks)

4.

a) Some argue that Intellectual Property Laws are a tool used by Western Powers to exploit developing countries by increasing sales for their software in these countries at high prices. Others argue that a good legal framework that protects Intellectual Property is essential to create a vibrant software industry in countries like Sri Lanka. Discuss this statement. (10 Marks)

b) Explain the concept of Fair Use in connection with copyrighted intellectual property. (5 Marks)

c) Last month Kamal requested a quotation from AP Computers for some PCs that he intended to buy for a new software company he was setting up. AP Computers sent him a hard copy quotation duly

printed and signed. Kamal replied by e-mail indicating that he was confirming the order and that a formally printed and signed purchase order would follow. AP Computers proceeded with the order on the strength of this e-mail and did not attach much importance to follow up on the printed purchase order. In fact the printed purchase order was never received by AP Computers.

Once the PCs were delivered after about 2 weeks, Kamal refused to accept them saying that despite the e-mail, he never formally confirmed the order with a hard copy Purchase Order. He said his business partner had since let him down and he was not going ahead with the company.

Was AP Computers legally incorrect in considering Kamal's e-mail as a formal expression of intent to proceed with the order? Give your reasons citing any Sri Lankan Laws that govern this type of transaction. (5 Marks)

- d) Consider the case given in question 2) above. What are the legal implications of Ajith's actions? Specify any Sri Lankan statutes that govern this type of activity? (5 Marks)

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