Quiz 2

1. Why must a shell program call fork() before exec() when executing a user command?

The exec() system call overwrites the memory of the current process. If the shell called exec() directly it would cease to exist. Instead, the shell must call fork() to create a new process to run the user command before it calls exec() to run the requested program.

- 2. Threads are assigned dedicated instances of which of the following pieces of program state?
 - a. Global variables
 - b. Stack memory
 - c. Heap memory
 - d. File descriptors
 - e. Registers
- 3. What is the output of the following program (assume no errors)?

```
void main()
                                         The output is:
{
                                         2
     int x = 0;
                                         1
     if (fork() == 0) {
                                         0
           X++;
           if (fork() == 0)
                 X++;
           else
                 wait(NULL);
     } else
           wait(NULL);
     printf("%d\n", x);
}
```