1) When a PUT request is made for a resource that already exists, should the resource be truncated, or should the data be appended, or does it not matter?

HTTP PUT request replaces the resource. HTTP PATCH appends/modifies the resource. Please refer to the reference link provided in the HW Assignment for details on this.

2) Should a DELETE request be able to delete private.html or any other file that doesn't have readable permissions?

A DELETE request should delete any file that has read - write permissions. Since private.html will not have required permissions, the server should not be able to delete it.

In order to test the DELETE functionality, follow the example in the homework assignment writeup when doing a DELETE - add a file through PUT and then try to DELETE that file.

3) For the OPTIONS method, is it OK if we hardcode which methods are acceptable for which URIs? Also, do we need to respond with the same headers as in the example, like Cache-Control, Date, and Content-Length?

For the OPTIONS method, you should hardcode the available HTTP methods for each resource mentioned in the write up (calendar.html, form.html, and entire server). We will be verifying the methods of only the resources that are mentioned in the write-up.

4) Do we need to handle serving binary files, like images?

No, but if you do, we will give you 5 bonus points. We will update the assignment writeup to reflect that as well

5) When we're checking for the 406 - Not Acceptable error, is there a specific list of types we should be checking?

You should check if the mime type of the requested resource (file) is acceptable.