Answer All Questions

The goal of user interface design is to achieve good usability and good user experience.

(a) [2 Marks] What is user centered design?

User centered design involves the user/stakeholder throughout the entire design process, from requirements gathering to conceptual design and prototyping to evaluation.

How does user centered design help achieve the interface design goal?

By involving the user throughout the design process and improving the design based on the user's evaluation and feedback, the user will know exactly how to use the designed interface (good usability) and it works as the user expects (good user experience).

(b) [2 Marks] What are design principles?

Design principles are guidelines for a good/successful design based on proven good/successful designs.

How do they help achieve the interface design goal?

Since the design principles are based on proven good/successful designs, the designed interface will have features that help the user figure out exactly how to use it (good usability) and make the user comfortable/enjoy using it (good user experience).

(c) [2 Marks] What are usability principles?

Usability principles are guidelines to design a product that can be used naturally (based on real-world knowledge and experience).

How do they help achieve the interface design goal?

Since the usability principles make the designed interface natural to use, the user can figure out exactly how to use it (based on real-world knowledge) and enjoy using it with a good feeling (based on real-world experience).

(d) [2 Marks] Consider the principle: "An interface should have good visibility, good affordance and good feedback".

How is this a design principle?

This is a design principle because it specifies which properties/features the designed interface should have.

How is this a usability principle?

This is a usability principle because it specifies the properties/features that will make using the interface natural and unambiguous to the user without remembering any details.

(e) [2 Marks} What is the difference between usability and user experience?

Usability is how well (effectively and efficiently) an interface can be learnt and used by a user; whereas user experience is how comfortable/satisfied the user is in using it.

Will a highly usable interface (with good usability) lead to good user experience? If it does, explain how; if it does not, explain why not.

A user will know exactly how to use a highly usable interface; however, the comfort/satisfaction in using that interface depends on many other factors like the user's mood, environment, distractions, etc. Hence a highly usable interface may not necessarily lead to good user experience.

*** END OF QUIZ ***