



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

SIT 208: ETHICS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DATE: 26/11/2020

TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Describe each of the following ethical issues in regard to computer technology
 - i. patent rights;
 - ii. trademark; (4 marks)
- b) Describe how each of the following are used to threaten the privacy of personal data through computer technology:
 - i. cookies
 - ii. electronic profile
 - iii. spyware (6 marks)
- c) The following issues relate to the use of ICT in Kenya:
 - i. Using the office computer to do personal work;
 - ii. Selling pirated software to a non-governmental organization;
 - iii. Withdrawing cash from your parents' bank account using ATM card without their consent;
 - iv. Plagiarizing and using materials from the internet for your class assignment without giving credit to the original author;

- v. Sharing offensive messages about a particular community on twitter account;
- vi. Hacking into your schools' database to change your examination results;
- vii. Reading a lecturer's e-mail without his or her permission;
- viii. Posting an examination paper to your face book account before it is officially released to students;

Classify each of these issues as either *ethical* or *legal* (4 marks)

- d) Every business that employs people regardless of its size and industry experiences various organizational conflicts.
 - i. Explain **three** causes of such conflicts (6 marks)
 - ii. Outline **two** effects of such conflicts to the organization. (2 marks)
- e) Discuss **four** approaches to dealing with moral issues. (8 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) State two types of intellectual property. (2 marks)
- b) Explain four reasons why we should uphold code of ethics in an information center. (8 marks)
- c) Discuss the Digital Divide and how it can be bridged in Kenya. (4 marks)
- d) Discuss briefly the course of action in a whistle blower situation. (6 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss how technology has made some companies obsolete citing three cases in Kenya. (6 marks)
- b) Explain **three** ways an organization may choose to install filters on their employees' computers. (3 marks)
- c) Discuss **three** positive and Three negative impacts of a governments internet censorship of its citizens. (3 marks)
- d) Identify **four** ethical values an information professional should possess. (4 marks)
- e) Discus **four** benefits of consumer profiling. (4 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) State why it is important for an IT worker to be licensed. (2 marks)
- b) Giving an example for each, distinguish between **misrepresentation** and **embellishment** of one's professional accomplishments on a résumé. (6 marks)
- c) A company that deals with software production for different clients has realized that piracy is a great threat to their growth. Explain **three** measures that they could put in place to counter this threat. (6 marks)
- d) Highlight **six** factors to consider in effective data protection as stated in the privacy law. (6 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the five-step decision making process. (5 marks)
- b) Discuss the ethical and moral aspects if IT in the following situation:
As part of your company's annual performance review process, each employee must identify three coworkers to be interviewed by his manager to get a perspective on the employee's overall work performance. Your friend has offered to give you a glowing performance review if you agree to do the same for him. Truth be told, your friend is not a very dependable worker, and his work is often below minimum standards. However, he is a good friend, and you would hate to upset him. What would you do? (5 marks)
- c) Briefly discuss three key advantages that trade secret law has over the use of **patents** and **copyrights** in protecting intellectual property. (6 marks)
- d) Describe a hypothetical situation in which the action you would take is not legal, but it is ethical. (4 marks)