



Strathmore
UNIVERSITY

MST 8501

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
END OF SEMESTER EXAM

Date: 27th May 2024

Dr. J. Branya

100 marks

Time: 17:00-20:00

Answer Question 1 and any other three

Question 1. Define the following; (40 Marks)

1. Metaethics,
2. Moral Good,
3. Natural Moral Law,
4. Feelings,
5. Virtues,
6. Character,
7. H3 Level of Happiness,
8. Nudging,
9. Subsidiarity,
10. Distributive Justice,

Question 2. (20 marks)

Robert is an IT professional. He is in charge of assisting the research and development team in modelling some of the products. He was aware of the importance of confidentiality and would not speak about his work outside the team. He has a friend from campus. They often meet for drinks on weekends. Sometimes the friend pushes him to drink a bit too much, to the point that he does not remember what he did or said in those circumstances. He does not know that his friend works for a competing company. His friend's company sometimes delivers new products before this employees' company. The managers suspect he is the source of leakages and decide to terminate his contract. He has taken the case to the Industrial Court.

Using the three elements of moral analysis decide what is his moral (not juridical) responsibility. Object (10 marks), Intention (2 marks) and Circumstances (8 marks)

Question 3. (20 marks) There are four new managers assigned to a development project of which you are the lead. Each of them has a different temperament. Explain

- a) how you distinguish each of the temperaments; whether they are emotional or not, whether the emotions last a long time or not, and their good and bad traits (10 marks)
- b) and give what type of assignment you will give them based on their temperamental characteristics, likes, and dislikes. (10 marks).

Question 4 (20 marks) You are being promoted to be the chief ethics manager in your company IT department and you have been requested to prepare a strategic plan on how to promote happiness within the next 5 years. Give the master lines for the four levels of happiness. Goals, objectives, activities, methods of evaluation.

Question 5 (20 marks)

Frederic is the IT manager at a mid-sized financial services firm. He was recently appointed. Despite his title, Frederic lacks several key qualities for the role. The company is about to launch a new online investment platform. Frederic is responsible for ensuring the platform's security and smooth operation. He did not check on other systems like the one being implemented. He also was easy on considering the moral consequences of his work. Frederic didn't thoroughly test the new platform before launch. He rushed the process to meet an unrealistic deadline set by overeager executives. When a critical security flaw was discovered days before launch, Frederic panicked. Instead of exploring alternative solutions or seeking additional resources, he ignored the issue. He has a history of disregarding security recommendations from his team. He believes his experience trumps their expertise and dismisses their concerns. Frederic didn't consider the potential consequences of a faulty platform launch. He failed to anticipate how a security breach could damage the company's reputation and finances. Frederic didn't implement basic security measures like data encryption or two-factor authentication. He overestimated the platform's security and underestimated the risks. Predictably, the new platform launched with glitches, and the security flaw allowed unauthorized access to customer data. The company suffered financial losses, reputational damage, and faced regulatory fines.

- a) Define Prudence (2 marks)
- b) Using the nine elements of prudence analyse Frederic's decisions. (18 marks, 2 marks per element)

Question 5 (20 marks)

Monica, the IT manager at Eco Green, a leading manufacturer of sustainable building materials, embodied a unique approach to IT management. Her decisions prioritized the well-being of all stakeholders, the environment, and a collaborative approach. Eco Green had a diverse set of stakeholders, including employees, customers, investors, and the community. Monica ensured IT solutions met everyone's needs. Secure remote work options benefitted employees, while a user-friendly online ordering system improved customer experience.

Monica championed the use of open-source software whenever possible. This saved costs for the company and contributed to the development of freely available tools, benefiting the wider IT community. When a local school needed help setting up a computer lab, Monica didn't just donate old equipment. She organized a volunteer program among her team, providing technical expertise and fostering a sense of solidarity with the community. However, she empowered the school staff to manage the lab independently (subsidiarity), offering ongoing support when needed. Monica believed in open communication. She established IT forums where employees could voice concerns and suggestions. This participatory approach helped identify problems early on and fostered a sense of ownership among the staff. Monica championed energy-efficient IT solutions. She implemented server virtualization and cloud computing, reducing hardware footprint and energy consumption. Eco Green even launched a program to recycle old electronics responsibly. Monica's approach led to a win-win situation. Employees felt valued, customers were happy, and Eco Green saved money while minimizing its environmental impact. Her team's expertise gained recognition, attracting partnerships and strengthening the company's reputation.

Monica's work seems to follow the social ethical principles

- a) Distinguish what is the difference between values and principles and where they are founded. (8 marks)
- b) Briefly explain each of the social ethical principles (12 marks)
- c) Cite Monica's actions that implement or not each of the principles (12 marks)