

# ETHC303 Question Bank

*Introduction to Ethics • Ethical Theories • Professional Ethics*

Compiled from past quizzes, majors, and makeup exams

★ = Past Exam Question

# Chapter 1: Introduction to Ethics

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## Multiple Choice

1. Why must a moral system be based on principles of logical reason that are accessible to all individuals?

★ Past Exam

- A) To ensure that morality is informal.
- B) To avoid the need for public attention or review.
- C) To ensure that it is rational and does not require special knowledge.
- D) To promote moral rules that vary between privileged groups.

2. One of the following is not considered as a feature of moral systems: ★ Past Exam

- A) Public.
- B) Informal.
- C) Partial.
- D) Rational.

3. Which is NOT one of the four different characteristics of a moral system? ★ Past Exam

- a) Public
- b) Rational
- c) Informal enforcement
- d) Legal
- e) Impartial

4. Use of computers for surveillance is an example of: ★ Past Exam

- a) Invisible complex calculation
- b) Presence of invisible programming values
- c) Invisible Abuse
- d) Logical malleability of computers

5. Ethics really boils down to a cost-benefit analysis. ★ Past Exam

- a) Ethical Relativism
- b) Virtue Ethics
- c) Utilitarianism
- d) Deontology
- e) None of the above

6. Which of the following would a cultural relativist accept? ★ Past Exam

- a) Morality is determined by the guiding ideals of a society.
- b) Morality is determined by personal opinion.
- c) There is no moral trust at all.
- d) None of the above.

7. A common critique of Cultural Relativism is that it: ★ Past Exam

- A) Denies the existence of any cultural differences.

- B) Implies that no culture's practices can be morally criticized by outsiders.
- C) Promotes the idea that one culture is morally superior to others.
- D) Encourages moral and universal principles.

8. Which of the following statements aligns with Subjective Relativism? ★ Past Exam

- A) What is morally right for one person may be morally wrong for another, and both can be correct.
- B) Moral judgments should be based on the consequences of actions.
- C) There are universal moral principles that everyone must follow.
- D) Moral truths depend on religious or divine commands.

9. Divine Command Theory is advantageous in a multicultural society because everyone follows one religion's moral code. ★ Past Exam

*(True or False — correct the statement if false)*

10. Thomas Hobbes called life without rules and a means of enforcing them ★ Past Exam

- a) Utopia.
- b) Anarchy.
- c) Democracy.
- d) Communism.
- e) The state of nature

11. Cyber-privacy focuses on:

*(Note: included here only if discussed as a foundational ethics-of-technology concept in your course; otherwise belongs to the Privacy chapter.)*

## Fill in the Blanks

1. Ethics is the philosophical study of \_\_\_\_\_, a rational examination into people's moral belief and behaviour. ★ Past Exam
2. A perfect duty includes helping others in need whenever possible. (True/False) ★ Past Exam
3. Right to Privacy is a negative right. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

## Essay / Scenario Question

### Scenario: The Dark Knight

*In the movie The Dark Knight, Batman, who represents order, justice, and moral integrity, faces a profound ethical dilemma when he comes face-to-face with the Joker, a chaotic and malevolent force who thrives on anarchy and destruction. Despite the Joker's relentless efforts to destabilize Gotham and push Batman into compromising his own principles, Batman consistently refuses to kill him. The opportunity to kill the Joker would have been an easy way out to stop the chaos. Instead, he chooses to capture and imprison the Joker. This decision ultimately reinforces the film's deeper themes about the nature of good and evil, the consequences of choices, and the complexities of heroism in a morally ambiguous world.*

- A. What should Batman do if he was a utilitarian? (3 marks) ★ Past Exam
- B. What should Batman do if he was a deontologist? (3 marks) ★ Past Exam

## Chapter 2: Ethical Theories

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### Multiple Choice

1. According to Kant, which of the following actions has moral worth? ★ Past Exam
  - A) An action that maximizes happiness for the majority.
  - B) An action done in accordance with duty, regardless of consequences.
  - C) An action done out of self-interest.
  - D) An action that conforms to societal norms.
2. Which of the following best captures the principle of Act Utilitarianism? ★ Past Exam
  - A) An action is morally right if it results in the greatest overall happiness, irrespective of established rules.
  - B) Actions are right if they conform to a set of moral rules.
  - C) Actions are right if they promote individual well-being over societal well-being.
  - D) An action is morally right if it can be universalized.
3. What distinguishes Rule Utilitarianism from Act Utilitarianism? ★ Past Exam
  - A) Rule Utilitarianism focuses on following rules that, when generally adopted, lead to the greatest happiness.
  - B) Rule Utilitarianism evaluates each action on a case-by-case basis.
  - C) Rule Utilitarianism disregards the importance of happiness.
  - D) Rule Utilitarianism focuses on maximizing individual freedoms.
4. According to Rawls' "Principles of Justice," when are social and economic inequalities justified? ★ Past Exam
  - A) When they lead to an overall increase in society's funds.
  - B) When they benefit those with the most resources.
  - C) When they result in the greatest advantage for the least-advantaged members of society.
  - D) When they promote individual liberty above all else.
5. The idea that social and economic inequalities must be to the greatest benefit of the least-advantaged members of society is called ★ Past Exam
  - a) Capitalism.
  - b) Communism.
  - c) Socialism.
  - d) Utilitarianism.
  - e) The difference principle.
6. The core principles of John Rawls' theory of justice are: ★ Past Exam
  - A) Equal basic rights and liberties
  - B) Social and economic equalities
  - C) Inequal basic rights and liberties
  - D) Social and economic inequalities

7. A right that is guaranteed without exception is called a ★ Past Exam
- a) Positive right.
  - b) Negative right.
  - c) Absolute right.
  - d) Limited right.
  - e) Proverbial right.
8. A right that another can guarantee by leaving you alone to exercise your right is called a ★ Past Exam
- a) Positive right.
  - b) Negative right.
  - c) Absolute right.
  - d) Limited right.
9. Which of the following is an example of positive rights? ★ Past Exam
- a) The right to receive healthcare services
  - b) The right to access public health protection programs
  - c) The right to personal privacy
  - d) Both a and b
  - e) All of the above
10. A government guaranteeing free basic healthcare to all citizens is an example of: ★ Past Exam
- A) A negative right
  - B) A privilege, not a right
  - C) A positive right
  - D) A natural right
11. A negative right means that others must refrain from interfering, allowing you to freely exercise your rights. (True/False) ★ Past Exam
12. According to social contract theory, what is the purpose of state? ★ Past Exam
- A) To maximize happiness.
  - B) To enforce individual positive rights only.
  - C) To protect natural rights.
  - D) To promote virtue.
13. The social contract is \_\_\_\_\_. ★ Past Exam
- a) an agreement among people to share certain interests and make certain compromises for the good of them all
  - b) mainly an agreement of equally selfless and unselfish persons not to commit theft or murder
  - c) a choice to serve the public interest at the expense of a small number of individuals
  - d) the only popular political theory
14. Social contract theory assumes that everyone in society ought to bear certain burdens in order to receive certain benefits. (True / False / Maybe) ★ Past Exam
15. Which of the following best represents Social Contract Theory in practice? ★ Past Exam

- A) Citizens consenting to laws for mutual benefit
  - B) Acting out of duty without considering consequences
  - C) Seeking the greatest good for the greatest number
  - D) Emulating moral exemplars
16. A critique of Social Contract Theory is that it: ★ Past Exam
- A) Relies too heavily on divine intervention
  - B) Does not account for marginalized groups
  - C) Overemphasizes cultural norms
  - D) Focuses exclusively on individual virtue
17. Kant argued that morality must ultimately be grounded in the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ that humans have to one another, and never in the \_\_\_\_\_ of human actions. ★ Past Exam
18. The morality of an action has nothing to do with the \_\_\_\_\_ behind the action. ★ Past Exam
19. Both Kantianism and Social Contract Theory are based on the notion of \_\_\_\_\_ moral rules. ★ Past Exam
20. According to Kant's moral philosophy, which of the following does not reflect the core idea of the categorical imperative? ★ Past Exam
- a) We must never treat individuals solely as tools to achieve our goals, but always as valuable in themselves.
  - b) Moral rules should be based on principles that everyone in similar situations could consistently follow.
  - c) It is always unethical to use people in scientific research, since this treats them only as means.
  - d) One should only act according to principles that they could want to be universal laws.
21. Kantianism allows no exceptions to perfect duties. (True/False) ★ Past Exam
22. Kantian ethics emphasizes that some actions are wrong due to their inherent nature, not just because of their outcomes. (True/False) ★ Past Exam
23. Some utilitarians believe utility means maximizing intrinsic goods like happiness, while others focus on fulfilling individual preferences. (True/False) ★ Past Exam
24. Kantianism allows no exceptions to perfect duties. ★ Past Exam  
*(duplicate phrasing seen across multiple exams — included once)*
25. According to which moral theory is the question, “What would a person of superior character do in this context?” asked? ★ Past Exam
- a) Ethical Relativism
  - b) Virtue Ethics
  - c) Utilitarianism
  - d) Deontology
  - e) None of the above
26. What is virtue ethics? ★ Past Exam
- a) Virtue ethics is the approach that people will behave due to a set of virtues they have.

- b) Virtue ethics is the approach that people will behave because of the consequences of their actions.
- c) Virtue ethics is the approach that people will behave because they feel a duty to be responsible.
- d) Virtue ethics is the approach that people will behave based on their ideals and ambitions.

27. Virtue Ethics... ★ Past Exam

- a) Assumes good businesses will make good decisions
- b) Assumes good governments will enforce good ethical practices on their businesses
- c) Assumes good persons will make good decisions and personal qualities affect decisions.
- d) Assumes good persons will make good decisions but it has nothing to do with personal qualities.

28. The character trait that prevents a human being from flourishing is called? ★ Past Exam

- A) Intellectual virtue.
- B) Moral virtue
- C) Vice
- D) None of the above

29. According to Virtue Ethics, a right action is what a \_\_\_\_\_ person would do in the same circumstances. ★ Past Exam

30. John Rawls's Principles of Justice [matching]: ★ Past Exam

- a) Each person may claim a “fully adequate” number of basic rights and liberties.
- b) Everyone receives certain benefits in return for bearing certain burdens.
- c) Some people are not responsible for their bad actions.
- d) Moral decision making cannot be reduced to the routine application of a set of rules.

31. One of the advantages of applying Social Contract Theory: ★ Past Exam

- a) No one signed the social contract
- b) Everyone receives certain benefits in return for bearing certain burdens
- c) Moral wisdom and vices
- d) Rights theory

32. The ————— can be defined as: character traits human beings need in order to flourish and be truly happy ★ Past Exam

- a) Social Contract Theory
- b) Virtue Ethics
- c) Kantianism

33. If an action is done from a sense of duty and if the principle of action can be universalized, then the action is... ★ Past Exam

*(this statement summarizes which ethical theory?)*

## Matching / Short Answer

**Match each concept/case below to the best-fitting theory or term from this list:** Kantianism, John Rawls’s 2nd principle (Difference Principle), Risk Score, Having quite different conceptions of human flourishing, Utilitarianism, Getting a job promotion, Positive Rights, Social Contract Theory, A violation of the 1st/2nd Formulation of the Categorical Imperative, Negative rights, Being fired

- Limitations of Virtue Ethics
- Ethical theory that most strongly supports a paternalistic client–professional relationship, where professionals may override client preferences to prevent harm
- Universities offer special scholarships for students from poor backgrounds
- A doctor tests a new drug on patients without informing them
- An ethical theory that is always linked with goodwill and a sense of duty
- Right to Privacy: You have the right not to have your personal data accessed without consent.

## Short Answer / Essay

1. Both rule utilitarianism and Kantianism are focused on rules. Explain how the two ethical theories derive moral rules in completely different ways. (2 pts) ★ Past Exam
2. Describe the main argument of Social Contract Theory as proposed by Thomas Hobbes. (1 mark) ★ Past Exam
3. Give your ethical judgement based on any two of the following theories whether [a given scenario's actor] should proceed or refuse: Social Contract Theory, Virtue Ethics Theory, Act Utilitarianism Approach. (2 marks) ★ Past Exam

## Scenario: AI Monitoring System (Ethical Theory Application)

*A software company develops an AI-based monitoring system for a public transportation authority. The system improves safety by detecting suspicious behavior in real time, but it also continuously collects and analyzes passengers' personal data without explicit consent. Data collection is legal under current regulations and significantly reduces crime rates, but it raises concerns about privacy, autonomy, and public trust.*

- a. Using Kantian ethics, analyse whether deploying this monitoring system is morally acceptable. In your answer, consider respect for persons, autonomy, and the principle of treating individuals as ends rather than merely as means. (1 Mark) ★ Past Exam
- b. From the perspective of rule-based utilitarianism, evaluate whether implementing this system is ethically justified. Focus on whether adopting a general rule permitting such monitoring would maximize overall well-being. (1 Mark) ★ Past Exam
- c. According to social contract theory, discuss whether the deployment of this system is ethically permissible. Consider issues of implicit consent, fairness, and whether rational members of society would agree to such data collection under a social contract. (1 Mark) ★ Past Exam

# Chapter 3: Professional Ethics

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## Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is NOT a principle used for evaluating rules of conduct? ★ Past Exam
  - a) Justice
  - b) Fairness
  - c) Efficiency
  - d) Autonomy
2. \_\_\_\_\_ are the evaluative standards used to justify rules of conduct. ★ Past Exam
  - a) Social policies
  - b) Principles
  - c) Directives
  - d) All of the above
3. In a moral system, \_\_\_\_\_ are action-guiding rules, while \_\_\_\_\_ are the standards used to justify these rules. ★ Past Exam
4. Which of the following requirement is not mentioned in computer related profession? ★ Past Exam
  - a) Team work is required.
  - b) Membership in professional society optional
  - c) College degree is required
  - d) Certification and licensing not required
5. Which one is not the characteristics of a profession? ★ Past Exam
  - a) Autonomy
  - b) Certification & Licensing
  - c) Informal Education
  - d) Professional development
  - e) Code of ethics
6. A profession is a vocation (ability) requiring courage, defined as a middle ground between cowardice (having an excess of fear) and rashness (having a deficiency of fear). (True/False or matching) ★ Past Exam
7. In a client – professional relationship, if both client and professional play a role in decision making, this trust model is called \_\_\_\_\_. ★ Past Exam
  - a) Agency model
  - b) Paternalistic model
  - c) Fiduciary model
  - d) None of them.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is the trust model between a professional and the client in which both parties play a dominant role in decision-making. ★ Past Exam
  - a) Paternalistic model

- b) Fiduciary model
- c) Agency Model
- d) None of the above.

9. Which of the following models describes a relationship where the professional makes all decisions without involving the client? ★ Past Exam

- a) Trust model
- b) Agency model
- c) Paternalistic model
- d) Fiduciary model

10. Which model of professional-client relationship is characterized by the professional doing exactly what the client instructs? ★ Past Exam

- a) Paternalistic model
- b) Agency model
- c) Trust model
- d) Contractual model

11. What does the Trust model in professional relationships entail? ★ Past Exam

- a) The client makes all decisions and the professional follows
- b) Both the client and professional share decision-making responsibilities
- c) The professional acts solely on behalf of the client's wishes
- d) The professional takes on full responsibility for the outcomes

12. One of the professional relationship models between the employer and the employee is the paternalistic model. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

13. What is the moral foundation of the employer-employee relationship according to professional ethics? ★ Past Exam

- a) Employees should always prioritize client needs
- b) Both parties must treat each other with respect and not as a means to an end
- c) Employees must agree to all employer terms
- d) Employers should take advantage of employees' skills to maximize profit

14. According to which moral theory does the moral worth of an individual's action depend exclusively on the moral acceptability of the general rule of conduct on which the person is acting? ★ Past Exam

- a) Utilitarianism
- b) Kantianism (universalized)
- c) Rights theory (Social Contract)
- d) Virtue theory
- e) None of the above

15. Which of the following statement is not true about Code of Ethics ★ Past Exam

- a) Cannot provide a complete ethical framework
- b) Laws passed by public legislative bodies
- c) Helps in inspiring public trust and respect for the profession

- d) Can be useful tools for computer practitioners for decision making
16. What is the primary role of a professional code of ethics? ★ Past Exam
- a) To create laws for ethical behavior
  - b) To inspire trust and outline the profession's standards
  - c) To replace moral reasoning with legal frameworks
  - d) To provide absolute answers to ethical dilemmas
17. A professional code of ethics mainly exists to protect professionals from being blamed for their decisions. (Correct the statement — it is false) ★ Past Exam
18. Why is enforcing ethical codes generally more complex than enforcing laws? ★ Past Exam
- a) Ethical violations automatically result in legal penalties.
  - b) Ethical codes rely on professional judgment and moral interpretation rather than legally binding rules.
  - c) Ethical standards are universally interpreted and consistently applied across professions.
  - d) Legal rules are based on personal values, whereas ethical codes are entirely objective.
19. Which limitation most weakens the effectiveness of organizational ethical codes in ensuring consistent ethical compliance? ★ Past Exam
- a) They take precedence over legal requirements in all circumstances.
  - b) They replace the need for individual ethical judgment.
  - c) They apply rigid moral rules without regard to context.
  - d) They are sometimes vaguely worded, enabling inconsistent or selective enforcement.
20. A professor accepts a consulting job with a company whose software they are evaluating in a research project. What ethical principle is at risk? ★ Past Exam
- A) Academic freedom
  - B) Conflict of interest
  - C) Professional networking
  - D) Corporate partnership
21. A software consultant is negotiating a contract with a local community to design their traffic control system (TCS). He recommends they select the TCS system out of several available systems on the market. The consultant fails to mention that he is a major stockholder of the company producing TCS software. Which of the following ACS Code of Professional Conduct values and its relevant clauses have been violated by the software consultant? ★ Past Exam
- a) 1.2.1 Public Interest: Advise your stakeholders as soon as possible of any conflicts of interest or conscientious objections that you have.
  - b) 1.2.3 Honesty: Not knowingly mislead a client or potential client as to the suitability of a product or service.
  - c) 1.2.4 Professionalism: Refrain from any conduct or action in your professional role which may tarnish the image of the profession or detract from the good name of the ACS.
  - d) All of the above.
22. Intentional delivery of a product that still lacks key functionality or has known software defects is known as ★ Past Exam

- a) Incompetency
- b) Mea Culpa
- c) Red Lies
- d) All of the above

23. “Red lies” occur when a developer unintentionally gives wrong information about a project's progress. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

24. “Sweep it under the rug” refers to ignoring problems in a project instead of addressing them. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

25. A system administrator has authorized access to employee activity logs that may include private information. No misuse is suspected. What is the most ethical action? ★ Past Exam

- a) Access the information even if there are no legitimate security or operational purposes.
- b) Access the information only when required for legitimate security or operational purposes.
- c) Share the information with management to avoid personal responsibility.
- d) Ignore privacy concerns since access is permitted by policy.

26. What ethical concern may arise when confidentiality agreements are strictly enforced in employer–employee relationships? ★ Past Exam

- a) They may limit an employee's ability to report unethical or illegal behaviour.
- b) They always contradict professional ethical standards.
- c) They remove the need for ethical judgment in the workplace.
- d) They guarantee full transparency between employers and employees.

27. System administrators have limited access to company data and therefore face fewer ethical challenges. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

28. Developing safety-critical systems requires extra care, documentation, and rigorous testing to avoid harm. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

29. The League of Professional System Administrators (LOPSA) provides a code of ethics that includes professionalism and personal integrity. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

30. Ethical behaviour means following all laws and regulations, regardless of moral principles. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

31. Systems analysts are responsible for identifying business requirements and proposing technical solutions. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

32. Using open-source code without crediting the source is considered unethical and may violate intellectual property laws. (True/False) ★ Past Exam

33. Which of the following is NOT a key responsibility of a system analyst? ★ Past Exam

- A) Identifying business needs
- B) Developing user interfaces
- C) Writing and testing software code
- D) Designing system requirements

34. What is the main ethical issue in “Extreme Pressure” situations? ★ Past Exam
- A) Developers take long vacations
  - B) Teams skip essential SDLC steps to meet deadlines
  - C) Engineers overestimate project costs
  - D) Clients request additional features
35. Resources and time needed to ensure quality are often cut under the extreme pressure to ship a new product. (True/False) ★ Past Exam
36. “Unauthorized software use” means: ★ Past Exam
- A) Using only licensed programs
  - B) Using illegal or uncredited software for tasks
  - C) Sharing software updates with others
  - D) Installing software with user permission
37. The main goal of Quality Assurance (QA) in software development is to: ★ Past Exam
- A) Reduce project duration
  - B) Guarantee reliable operation and reduce errors
  - C) Replace failed hardware components
  - D) Deliver incomplete software early
38. Which of the following best describes Informed Consent in system administration? ★ Past Exam
- A) Allowing users to set their own passwords
  - B) Informing users about system policies and monitoring rules
  - C) Sharing private data with management
  - D) Restricting users from system access
39. A program code written together by N-programmers implementing the same set of program statements is called N Programming. (True/False — correct if false) ★ Past Exam
40. We should use Act Utilitarianism ethical approach to maintain professional ethics. (True/False) ★ Past Exam
41. Which situation best illustrates a conflict between legal obligation and ethical responsibility? ★ Past Exam
- a) A physician follows approved medical protocols even though an untested treatment might offer better results.
  - b) A lawyer provides legal defence to a client despite personal doubts about the client's innocence.
  - c) A software engineer identifies a serious security vulnerability but is legally restricted from disclosure by a non-disclosure agreement.
  - d) A journalist publishes classified information obtained through illegal means to reveal corruption
42. How can the agency model in a client–professional relationship create ethical dilemmas? ★ Past Exam
- a) It guarantees that professionals always have greater authority than their clients.
  - b) It removes the need for professionals to exercise independent ethical judgment.
  - c) It ensures that ethical responsibility is equally shared in all decisions.

**d)** It may require professionals to act on behalf of clients even when the client's requests conflict with ethical standards.

**43.** A system analyst is asked to approve system requirements that meet business objectives, but ignore the accessibility and usability needs of certain user groups. What is the main ethical issue in this situation, and how should a professional system analyst respond? (1 Mark) ★ Past Exam

## Whistleblowing

**1.** Which of the following best characterizes whistle-blowing as “disloyal” to an organization? ★ Past Exam

- A)** Reporting a co-worker's minor policy violation
- B)** Informing a competitor about internal processes
- C)** Exposing serious legal violations that harm public safety
- D)** Reporting poor customer service practices to upper management

**2.** Which of the following best describes an internal whistleblower? ★ Past Exam

- A)** An individual who reports unethical behavior to external agencies
- B)** An individual who reports unethical behavior to their immediate supervisor
- C)** An individual who bypasses management and directly informs the media
- D)** An individual who chooses not to report unethical behavior at all

**3.** Which of the following individuals can be considered a whistle-blower? ★ Past Exam

- a)** One who discovers evidence of malpractice in the organization he works for and chooses to report it
- b)** One who discovers evidence of malpractice in the organization he works for and chooses to ignore it
- c)** One who discovers and ignores the fact that her company's main competitor is doing something unethical
- d)** One who discovers and reports the fact that her company's main competitor is doing something unethical.

**4.** The whistle-blower who is motivated by retribution is called ★ Past Exam

- A)** The Alarmist
- B)** The Altruist
- C)** The Bounty Hunter
- D)** The Avenger

**5.** What motivates an “Altruist” whistleblower? ★ Past Exam

- a)** Retaliation against the organization
- b)** Desire to protect the public good
- c)** Seeking a monetary reward
- d)** Gaining personal recognition

**6.** The typical corporate response to whistle-blowing is: ★ Past Exam

- a)** Punish the faulty directly
- b)** Change organization policy

- c) To condemn it and express complete disapproval
  - d) None of answers
7. In professional ethics, what is the main consequence of external whistleblowing? ★ Past Exam
- a) It strengthens team spirit
  - b) It results in bad publicity for the organization
  - c) It promotes transparency and collaboration
  - d) It enhances the company's reputation
8. In professional ethics, why might internal whistleblowing fail? ★ Past Exam
- a) Because of strong organizational support
  - b) Due to lack of ethical guidelines
  - c) Because of a hostile and unethical organizational culture
  - d) Due to excessive use of legal recourse
9. Which of the following best illustrates whistleblowing? ★ Past Exam
- a) Whistleblowers always act in self-interest rather than public interest
  - b) Whistleblowing leads to absolute moral clarity in all situations
  - c) Whistleblowers are protected by law, making retaliation impossible
  - d) Whistleblowing aims to promote justice but can result in unjust retaliation
10. One of the questions that should be asked before whistle-blowing is: ★ Past Exam
- a) Is serious harm to the public at stake?
  - b) Have you told your manager and are you sure whistle-blowing will work?
  - c) Have you tried every possible inside channel?
  - d) Do you have persuasive documented evidence?
  - e) All of the above.
11. Whistle blowing is considered a threat to disrupt the fabric of organizational culture. Comment. (2 marks) ★ Past Exam
12. What is the difference between internal and external whistle-blowing? (essay) ★ Past Exam
13. Describe two measures that should be taken to avoid whistle blowing. (essay) ★ Past Exam
14. List the main three questions that should be asked before an employee blows a whistle externally. (essay) ★ Past Exam
15. According to Richard DeGeorge, mention two of the five questions that should be asked before external whistleblowing becomes a moral duty. ★ Past Exam
16. List two impacts of whistle blowing for each of the following: (a) Employee (b) Organization. (2 pts.) ★ Past Exam

## Responsibility

1. It is responsibility borne because of a person's assigned duties: ★ Past Exam
- a) Role responsibility

- b) Causal responsibility
  - c) Legal responsibility
  - d) None of answers
2. Which of the following best describes “role responsibility”? ★ Past Exam
- a) Responsibility assigned by law
  - b) Responsibility due to a person's job duties
  - c) Responsibility to act morally
  - d) Responsibility caused by an action
3. Which of the following responsibility is not exclusive? ★ Past Exam
- a) Causal responsibility
  - b) Role responsibility
  - c) Moral responsibility
  - d) Legal responsibility
4. Moral, Role and Casual responsibilities are all exclusive responsibilities. (Correct the statement — it is false) ★ Past Exam

### Scenario: Jane the QA Engineer (Software Sign-off)

*A small software company is working on an integrated inventory control system for a very large national shoe manufacturer. The system will gather sales information daily from shoe stores nationwide. This information will be used by the accounting, shipping, and ordering departments to control all of the functions of this large corporation. The inventory functions are critical to the smooth operation of the system. Jane, a quality assurance engineer with the software company, suspects that the inventory functions of the system are not sufficiently tested, although they have passed all their contracted tests. She is pressured by her employers to sign off on the software. Legally she is only required to perform those tests which have been agreed to in the original contract. However, her considerable experience in software testing has led her to be concerned over risks of the system. Her employers say that they will go out of business if they do not deliver the software on time. Jane contends if the Inventory sub-system fails, it will significantly harm their client and its employees. If the potential failure were to threaten lives, it would be clear to Jane that she should refuse to sign off. But since the degree of threatened harm is less, Jane is faced with a difficult moral decision.*

**Task.** Using the following ethical theories, evaluate whether Jane should accept or refuse to sign off: A. Deontology (2.5 marks) B. Utilitarianism (2.5 marks) ★ Past Exam

### Scenario: Joe and the Campus Computer

*Joe is working on a project for his computer science course. The instructor has allotted a fixed amount of computer time for this project. Joe has run out of time, but has not yet finished the project. The instructor cannot be reached. Last year, Joe worked as a student programmer for the campus computer centre and is quite familiar with procedures to increase time allocations to accounts. Using what he learned last year, he is able to access the master account. Then he gives himself additional time and finishes his project.*

**Task.** Using the ethical analysis rubric, summarize the scenario, identify the ethical issues and conduct ethical analysis using Social Contract Theory to decide whether Joe's action is morally justifiable. (4 marks) ★ Past Exam

## Scenario: Diane the Consultant

Three years ago, Diane started her own consulting business. She has been so successful that she now has several people working for her and many clients. Their consulting work included advising on how to set up corporate intranets, designing database management systems, and advising about security. Presently she is designing a database management system for the personnel office of a medium-sized company. Diane has involved the client in the design process, informing the CEO, the director of computing, and the director of personnel about the progress of the system. It is now time to make decisions about the kind and degree of security to build into the system. Diane has described several options to the client. Because the system is going to cost more than they planned, the client has decided to opt for a less secure system. She believes the information they will be storing is extremely sensitive. It will include performance evaluations, medical records for filing insurance claims, salaries, and so forth. With weak security, employees working on client machines may be able to figure out ways to get access to this data, not to mention the possibility of on-line access from hackers. Diane feels strongly that the system should be much more secure. She has tried to explain the risks to the CEO, director of computing and director of personnel all agree that less security will do.

- a. Identify five (5) relevant clauses which will help Diane to take a decision on either building the system or refusing to build the system. (1.5 mark) ★ Past Exam
- b. Based on part a, give your ethical judgement whether Diane should build the system or refuse to do so as the client has requested. (1 mark) ★ Past Exam
- c. Give your ethical judgement based on any two of the following theories whether Diane should build the system or refuse to do so: (i) Social Contract Theory, (ii) Virtue Ethics Theory, (iii) Act Utilitarianism Approach. (2 marks) ★ Past Exam

## Scenario: Ali and the Desktop Monitoring Software

One afternoon when browsing through desktop files, Ali realizes that his supervisor installed desktop sharing application on his computer in order to monitor his workplace activity. Ali never got notified about the software installation and he believes that such actions demonstrate lack of faith in his ability to work professionally. On the other hand, the supervisor is convinced that he is entitled to monitor workplace activities of his staff member.

**Task.** Summarize the scenario and identify the ethical issues. Conduct an ethical analysis using ONE ethical theory of your choice: Social Contract Theory or Virtue Ethics Theory. (2 marks) ★ Past Exam

## Scenario: Ali, the System Administrator, and Yusuf's Files

Ali, a system administrator for a large corporation, is installing a new software package on the PC used by employee Yusuf. The company has not authorized Ali to read other people's files (email, web-logs and files in the user's home folders). However, in the course of installing the software, Ali accidentally comes across directories with files that have suspicious sounding names. Ali opens a few of the files and finds they contain stuff which proves freelancing projects involvement at Yusuf's end. Ali knows this is in violation of company policy.

**Task.** What should Ali do in this regard? What kind of relevant clauses from ACM code of ethics help you in taking such a decision? (3 marks) ★ Past Exam

## Scenario: XYZ Corporation, Chris, and Robin

*XYZ Corporation plans to monitor secretly the Web pages visited by its employees, using a data-mining program to analyze the access records. Chris, an engineer at XYZ, recommends that XYZ purchase a data-mining program from Robin, an independent contractor, without mentioning that Robin is Chris's domestic partner. Robin had developed this program while previously employed at UVW Corporation, without the awareness of anyone at UVW.*

**a.** Identify the relevant clauses with relevant justification, which have been violated by different players in this scenario. (2 marks) ★ Past Exam

**b.** What is the final ethical judgement with respect to the actions taken by the various players? (0.5 marks)  
★ Past Exam