

CSC 301 Computers and Society
Cal State University Dominguez Hills
Final Exam
May 15, 2018
Prof. Rosenthal
Answer Key

Each question is worth 6 points. You can write your answers with a list of bullet points (where applicable) or in paragraphs. You can earn up to 20 extra points on this exam if you get everything correct. This could add up to 6 points to your average.

1. Explain the difference between act and rule utilitarianism giving an example of each.

- a. Act utilitarianism judges each action by its net total impact and will only perform the act if the aggregate utility is positive – Each lie is considered on its individual merit
- b. Rule utilitarianism applies the same considerations but to general moral rules as opposed to individual rules – Lying is considered in general, although it would support lying in individual cases where the good might outweigh the bad (i.e. Misleading the enemy in wartime)

2. Describe two of Kant's major ideas about ethics.

- a. Universality – The behavior must be applicable to everyone
- b. Logic/Reason can be used to determine if an action is ethical – Use reason, rationality and judgment rather than emotions when determining what is ethical.
- c. Ethical rules are absolute – it is never okay to lie
- d. One must never treat people as a means to an end, but rather as the ends themselves.
- e. It is the motive for the act itself, not the consequence that matters

3. Define both negative and positive rights (liberties and claim rights). Give an example of a negative right and a positive right.

Negative Rights

- a. Rights without interference
- b. Others can't overrule or interfere with these rights
- c. Life, property, speech, religion, etc. are such rights
 - 1) Embodied in much of the Bill of Rights
 - 2) Often denied in authoritarian statesExample – you can choose where you want to work

Positive Rights

- a. Claimed or created
- b. Impose an obligation from one group to another
 - 1) Imposing a requirement on one person or group to hire another person

- 2) Social justice is based on the premise that claim rights are legitimate and even ethically required

Examples including paying for someone else's health care or food, equal time laws, etc.,

4. Describe the "Veil of Ignorance" and at least two outcomes that John Rawls saw if it was used. Give two examples of what people are ignorant of in this definition.

Rawls states that the veil of ignorance provides a way for you to make ethical decisions without knowing your own position in society. He believed that if no one knew his or her position or circumstance that they would look to ensure the greatest level of equality and Social Justice. Additional outcomes:

- Equality of income
- Equality of opportunity
- Reduced bias in all aspects of society
- Position based solely on contributions

He believed that you should be unaware of the following when making ethical choices:

- a. Race
- b. Age
- c. Sex
- d. Economic Circumstances
- e. Education
- f. Other talents

5. Why did the Communications Decency Act violate censorship provisions according to the Supreme Court?

The lack of clear standards made it impossible to enforce. In addition, such rules might have a chilling effect on the production of material suitable for adults. This decision did, in fact, lead to the growth in filtering software that parents could use to control child use on the Internet, although today they'd have to control a myriad number of devices that children have access to.

6. Describe 2 methods parents can use to restrict access by their children to inappropriate information on the Internet.

- Set appropriate filtering controls on the router
- Use filtering software to define sites that can be accessed
- Set parental controls on the child's log-on account controlling which programs can be accessed

7. List 3 Supreme Court guidelines regarding free speech.

- When a government action or law causes people to avoid legal speech and publication out of fear of prosecution, the law is said to have a "chilling effect" on First Amendment rights and will be declared unconstitutional

- Restrictions on speech, permit requirements, etc. must be content neutral
- Advocating illegal acts is (usually) legal
- Libel and direct, specific threats are not protected
- Inciting violence is illegal
- Anonymous speech is protected
- Some restrictions are allowed on advertising

8. Describe the principles outlined in Miller v. California (1973).

Stated that obscene material is not always protected

- Depicts sexual acts specifically prohibited by state law (bestiality, etc.). This list was much longer in 1973
- Depicts acts in a patently offensive manner according to community standards
 - This would allow a more traditional community to ban acts that might be more acceptable in an urban area
 - On the Internet 'community' has no geographic boundaries, it is often a community of interests
- Has no serious literary, artistic social political, or scientific value

9. Define sensitive information.

Personal information, business secrets, national security information at all levels is considered sensitive.

10. Define Anonymity in publishing.

Anonymity is the use of a pseudonym or other device to hide an author's identity.

11. List 2 benefits and 2 negative uses of anonymity.

Benefits:

- Government (and business) whistle blowers (to avoid retaliation)
- Human rights workers, journalists, etc. protect their identities through anonymity
- Ability to search on private health or other topics without traceability
- Avoiding annoying spam
- Avoid identity theft
- Avoid personal profiling
- Businesses might want to disguise information on confidential plans, travel arrangements, etc.
- Government undercover agents (at home or abroad) need new identities

Negatives:

- Disguising illegal financial dealings, including money laundering
- Antisocial activities including child pornography, bullying, slander, false rumors and libel
- Theft and reproduction of information
- Stealing of information with impunity
- Political mischief

- Illegal spying by the government

12. List 3 methods some governments use to control access to information.

- a. It installs its own computer system between the Internet and its own citizens, who are required to use their nation's internal communications infrastructure in most cases
- b. It can monitor all communications
- c. It can filter out information it doesn't want distributed
- d. Restrict social networking, searches, or other types of collaborative activities
- e. It can retaliate based on e-mails or other postings
- f. Control the servers, banning certain sites from the country.
- g. Ban certain applications (i.e. Skype).
- h. Negotiate with search engines such as Google to block certain searches, sites or information.

13. What does net neutrality mean?

Net Neutrality says that all Internet traffic should be treated exactly the same.

14-15. List the 4 fair factors used in determining fair use.

- Fair use identifies possible fair uses such as criticism, comment, new reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use) scholarship or research. The four factors used when deciding fair use are:
 1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes
 2. The nature of the copyrighted work (fiction gets greater protection)
 3. The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole
 4. The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

16. Define intellectual property.

Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.

17. Define plagiarism. Is it possible to have plagiarism without a copyright violation?

- Plagiarism is copying someone else's work (copyrighted or not) and representing it as your own
 - In many schools it can lead to disciplinary action and even expulsion
 - Ghost writing (i.e. a politician's autobiography) is not plagiarism
- There can be plagiarism even when there is no copyright violation
 - Hiring or asking someone to write a paper for you and representing it as your own

18. List 3 generally allowable cases of fair use.

- Criticism and commentary
- News reporting
- Research and scholarship
- Nonprofit educational uses
- Parody

19. List the 2 main provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) of 1998

Two main provisions were:

- Implementation of the WIPO Internet Treaties
 - Includes anti-circumvention provisions that prevent development and use of tools to get around DRM
- Establishing safe harbors for online service providers

Additional key parts of the act included:

- Permitting temporary copies of programs during computer maintenance
- Miscellaneous amendments to the Copyright Act, including amendments which facilitated Internet broadcasting
- Putting Library of Congress in charge of the rulemaking on an ongoing basis with updates occurring two years after enactment and every three years after that

20. List 2 ways that the software industry protects copyrights.

- Physical security
 - a. Requires a hardware dongle of use the software
- Licensing mechanisms
 - a. Free samples that self destruct (trial copies often come with new hardware)
 - b. Serial registration codes that are verified on-line and can only be used on a single computer
 - c. Moving the software to the cloud, and requiring a license fee to use the software
 - d. Sale of site licenses to companies to avoid internal copying
- Software organizations to enforce security – Software Publishers Association and Business Software Alliance
 - a. Fight software piracy
 - b. Urge whistleblowing by employees
 - c. Lobbying Congress and International organizations for stronger laws and enforcement
- Pursuit of law suits
 - a. Large fines scared industry into compliance