



(Knowledge for Development)

KIBABII UNIVERSITY
(KIBU)

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS
YEAR FOUR SEMESTER TWO

FOR THE DEGREE OF BSC.

(INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION)

COURSE CODE : BIT 421

**COURSE TITLE : ETHICAL, PROFESSIONAL AND
LEGAL ISSUES IN COMPUTING**

DATE: 17/02/2021

TIME: 1:00 P.M -4.00 P.M

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

ANSWER QUESTIONS ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO.

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) [30 MARKS]

- a) Explain briefly the following terms as used in cybercrimes.
- i. Cyber stalking [2 marks]
 - ii. Sniffing [2 marks]
 - iii. Cyber terrorism [2 marks]
- b) Interpret the following types of laws in relation to information protection
- i. Statute law
 - ii. Tort law [4 marks]
- c) Explain any three characteristics of an IT professional. [6 marks]
- d) Present two credible moral justifications someone gaining illegal access to a computer might give for this activity. What arguments would you present against those reasons? [4 marks]
- e) Differentiate between *privacy*, *secrecy* and *confidentiality* [3 marks]
- f) An engineer needed a program to perform a series of complicated calculations. He found a computer programmer capable of writing the program, but would only hire the programmer if he agreed to share any liability that may result from an error in the engineer's calculations. The programmer said he would be willing to assume any liability due to a malfunction of the program, but was unwilling to share any liability due to an error in the engineer's calculations. Explain the legal implication attached on the two. [7 marks]

QUESTION TWO [20 MARKS]

- a) Honest, upright, law-abiding citizens have nothing to fear from the distribution of their personal data." Do you agree or not? Give at least four reasons for your position and one reasonable objection to it. [10 marks]
- b) Differentiate between a **trade mark** and a **Copyright** and state the constraints attached to each. [6 marks]
- c) What are the two main kinds of law that are used to provide intellectual property protection for software? [4 marks]

QUESTION THREE [20 MARKS]

- a) Give at least three functions of professional organizations and say why these functions are managed by the professional organization (rather than some other organization such as the government or universities). [10 marks]
- b) Give one good reason why it is (or why it is not) reasonable to require members of a professional body to report back to the professional body significant violations of professional conduct on the part of another member. [10 marks]

QUESTION FOUR [20 MARKS]

- a) Distinguish between consequence-based and rule-based as principles of moral judgment. [6 marks]
- b) What is the consequentialist justification for laws that give ownership and control of software to individuals or corporations (proprietary software)? What is the basic dilemma in giving individuals the ownership and control of software they wrote? Is there any alternative to working with privately owned (proprietary) software? [10 marks]
- c) How has the concept of computer hacking changed from its use before the advent of the internet and today? [4 marks]

QUESTION FIVE [20 MARKS]

- a) State as accurately as you can four of the eight principles of the 1998 Data Protection Act and briefly explain the reason for having each of these principles. [6 marks]
- b) Ethical issues are not sufficient enough to solve problems related to computing. This has led to IT Professionals to develop codes of ethics for their members. Briefly outline the roles of the codes of ethics to IT Profession. [6 marks]
- c) What moral obligations are incurred through becoming a member of a professional body such as the ACM or IEEE, and how would you justify these moral obligations? [8 marks]