

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, PUNE
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Maharashtra)
Affiliated to University of Pune
Semester End Examination
Professional Ethics and Human Values
Semester - II

Programme: F.Y. B. Tech
Academic Year: 2011-12
Duration: 3 Hours

Divisions: I, II, III, IV, V
Date: 04.04.2012
Max. Marks: 50

Instructions:

1. Figures to the right indicate full marks.
2. Begin each answer on a fresh page. Neatness will be rewarded.
3. Mobile phones are not permitted in the examination hall.

Answer FIVE questions in all. Q1 is compulsory. Answer Q1 AND any FOUR out of the remaining questions.

Q1. Read the case narrated below and answer the questions that follow:

The Ideal Education Society is well known for its noteworthy service to education. The society runs a number of schools and colleges, their flagship institution being the Model College of Technology (MCT). One of the top ten engineering institutes in the country, MCT sets and maintains very high standards over a number of excellent UG and PG programmes delivered to students from home and abroad.

Anybody would feel happy to be associated with MCT, which has helped mould the careers of great visionaries in the engineering world. Still, MCT's Principal, who steered the college to great heights, is a worried man. Although his students have brought academic laurels to the college, he sometimes wonders how committed many of them may be to their role as students of a professional institute. He notes with concern that they often cut classes, en masse, especially on days just before or after a long weekend or festival break. He can understand that students staying away from their parents get homesick. He also knows that the temptation to use these breaks to visit their home towns can be very great. But at the same time, he strongly believes that in the process of growing into young adults and ultimately into professionals, students must develop a responsible work ethic with the right values to guide them. This is where he feels they fail, especially when they leave the hostel without permission and the teachers wait in empty classrooms for students who will not turn up. There have even been instances of students "bunking" lectures after arranging, with a collaborating friend, to answer their attendance by proxy. Recently, a student used this trick to stay away from a particular course for an entire semester. Unfortunately, by the time the teacher noticed this, the semester was almost over and it was too late to even help this student by any counselling.

Sadly such incidents continue despite MCT's sincere efforts to help students discuss their problems in various forums or with their faculty advisers. To make students understand the importance of ethical conduct, MCT even introduced a course in Value Education for them. But the commitment to it seems only marginal. The sole objective of many students appears to be to get past the course using any means, ethical or unethical. When a home assignment in this subject needed students to find answers to questions through reference work, many resorted to blind copying from others or from the internet. Apart from showing lack of commitment, these students did not even add value to their own knowledge by doing this. When asked why he had copied blindly, one student retorted quite casually, "How else can I score more marks?" Little did he realise that he might have performed much better had he understood the process of right working instead of needlessly worrying about his scores.

Questions:

- (a) Analyse the above case from a student's view point to suggest the possible reasons for the decline in values among today's youth. You may base your arguments on the various ethical concepts you have learnt.
(5 marks)
- (b) What suggestions will you make to the Principal of MCT to help him deal effectively with his dilemma?
(5 marks)

Q2. (a) Read the paragraph below and answer the question that follows:

As Gandhi said, the poor of the world can be helped, not by mass production, but only by production by the masses. The system of mass production, based on sophisticated, highly capital-intensive, high energy-input dependent, and human labour saving technology, presupposes that you are already rich; for a great deal of capital investment is needed to establish one single workplace. The system of production by the masses mobilises the priceless resources possessed by all human beings, their clever brains and skilful hands, and supports them with first-class tools. The technology of mass production is inherently violent, ecologically damaging, and self-defeating in terms of non-renewable resources, and stultifying for the human person. The technology of production by the masses, making use of the best modern knowledge and experience, is conducive to decentralisation, compatible with the laws of ecology, gentle in its use of scarce resources, and designed to serve the human person instead of making him or her the servant of human machines. I have named it intermediate technology to signify that it is vastly superior to the primitive technology of bygone ages but at the same time much simpler, cheaper and freer than the super-technology of the rich. One can also call it self-help technology or democratic or people's technology – a technology to which everybody can gain admittance and which is not reserved for those already rich and powerful.

(E.R. Schumacher: *Small is Beautiful*, 1973)

With reference to the above paragraph, state which of the following statements are true and which are false? (5 marks)

1. Production by the masses is large scale production of goods, employing sophisticated technology.
2. Mass production is highly capital intensive.
3. Production by the masses is the super technology of the rich
4. Production by the masses uses local resources, and employs intermediate technology.
5. Mass production is the technology of the poor.
6. Production by the masses is not reserved only for the rich and the powerful.
7. The super technology of the rich is known as intermediate technology
8. The technology of production by the masses is harmful to ecology.
9. Mass production is an inherently non-violent technology.
10. Mass production is vastly superior to intermediate technology, which is primitive.

Q2. (b) Re-write ANY TEN of the following statements making the necessary corrections to bring them in line with the definitions of the key words in them: (5 marks)

1. Simple technology is suitable for large scale production of goods, employing sophisticated machines and equipment.
2. Appropriate technology is developed to cater to the needs of rich industrial houses to help them earn high profits.
3. Appropriate technology finds many applications, especially in big industrial cities.
4. Appropriate technology is highly capital intensive and uses imported resources for manufacture.
5. Mass production makes use of human resources and employs intermediate technology.
6. High technology is the right technology for the cottage industry.
7. Appropriate technology is difficult to operate and needs to be maintained by highly skilled persons.
8. Moral dilemmas arise because of one's ability to choose between different moral alternatives.
9. The technology of production by the masses is harmful to ecology.
10. The headquarters of MNCs are located away from their home countries.
11. MNCs do business in their home countries because labour is expensive there.
12. Any occupation that helps us earn money is called a profession

Q3. What is the role played by *Multinational Corporations* in *transfer of technology*? Discuss the ethical issues involved in this process and the advantages and disadvantages of importing high technology from more developed countries.
(10 marks)

Q4. *Appropriate technology* is defined as a *low cost technology of the intermediate type*. Why is such technology called "*appropriate*"? Does this mean that high cost technology is always inappropriate? Discuss this from the ethical view point as well as the needs of globalisation.
(10 marks)

Q5. Computers can perform almost any job far more efficiently than human beings. Computer devices are soon replacing human workers in a number of jobs. Will this cause a risk of mass unemployment if not checked in time? Discuss the ethical issues connected with the spread of computer technology. (10 marks)

Q6. Write short notes on *any TWO* of the following:

(5 x 2 = 10 marks)

- (a) Need for Global Laws governing Information Ethics
- (b) Intellectual Property Rights
- (c) Computer Crime