

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE, PILANI  
Second Semester - 2021-2022  
Professional Ethics  
HSS F343 (Close Book)  
Comprehensive Examination

Room No. 1227  
Date: 09.05.2022

Max Marks 40  
Duration: 3 Hours

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- Attempt All Four Questions.
  - All Questions Carry Equal Marks.
1. Describe and discuss the three characteristics - prescriptive, universal and practical - of an acceptable ethical theory. You may choose to refer to the details of any one of the following examples of ethical theory: ethics of dharma, ethics of virtue, ethics of happiness or ethics of duty to explain the satisfactory or unsatisfactory presence of these three characteristics in it.
  2. “Whether a manager acts ethically or unethically when faced with an ethical dilemma is the result of complex interactions between the stage of moral development and several moderating variables including individual characteristics, structural variables, organization’s culture and the intensity of the ethical issue.” Discuss.
  3. Define education ethics. State and analyze the ethical relation between the teacher and students with special reference to teacher-student friendship and advocacy of views by the teacher in the classroom. You may use examples to elaborate your answer.
  4. Onkar Arora is an engineer. He designs tires for MRF Tyres. One day he comes across one of his colleague’s designs and notices an important flaw, one that might have disastrous results. Because the design of the tires is intended for sports recreational vehicles, the problem is aggravated by the higher than usual center of gravity. A blowout may cause the vehicles to flip over. Onkar seeks advice from his supervisor, but she is not convinced that he is right and attempts to set Onkar’s fears at ease. While Onkar is not afraid to bring this to the public’s attention if he has to, he is nevertheless bound by an oath of loyalty to attempt to solve problems like this within the company first. He decides to go over her head, which is his right according to company policy. The situation is also complicated because the design of the tires employs a trade secret. Onkar knows that if he has to go public with this information, he may be required to prove his case, which can be done only by revealing the trade secret. Does it represent a situation in which a trade secret may be revealed or even should be revealed? [Discuss the case in the light of your understanding of the topic “Professional Information in Engineering” in the theme Engineering Ethics and any one theoretical framework of ethics. If you want to include any detail from any other topic or theme, you may include but that would be treated as optional and additional to the suggested topic and theme.]