

Ethics Exam.

When answering your questions, take your time to read them carefully, and to plan your answer before writing.

Keep in mind the word count for each question. The exam is closed-book and should take up to 120 minutes to conclude.

Good luck!

Part 1. Ethical concepts (12/20. Each question is worth 1.2 points.)

Name one difference between Glaucon's argument for being just and Socrates's.

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Name a similarity between Aristotle’s and Plato’s conception of virtue.

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How is Augustine’s and Aquinas’s conception of free will different from modern ones?

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Name the three main characteristics of Utilitarianism.

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What is a moral action according to Kant?

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What are John Rawls's two principles of justice? Briefly explain them.

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What is the difference between Locke's and Hobbes's theories of the sources of the authority of the state?

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Name two arguments to impose limits on what we can be sold.

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"Corporations don't commit crimes. People do!" What theory does this sentence utter? What is the argument of that theory?

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How do stakeholder theories oppose shareholder theories?

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Part 3. Applied Ethics (8/20)

In September 2021, a former employee of the major tech company Meta, which was previously known as Facebook, Inc., leaked thousands of confidential documents. These documents included internal research that highlighted the company's awareness of the negative impact of Instagram on teenagers' mental health. The whistleblower, later identified as Frances Haugen, gained widespread attention for exposing this information. She claimed that since 2019, when she started working there, she had witnessed several occasions when the company prioritized profits over user safety. She took her concerns repeatedly to her managers, but they were disconsidered. Before leaving, less than two years after joining, she made copies of thousands of confidential documents, including these internal research outputs, which she later shared with the Wall Street Journal. The newspaper published what became known as "The Facebook Files" and the story was after that picked up by many other US and international news outlets.

Some years later, in 2023, a second Meta employee raised similar concerns. Arturo Bejar, former Facebook engineer director (from 2009 to 2015) and Instagram consultant from 2019 to 2021), claimed that Meta leadership was aware of "prevalent harms to its youngest users but declined to take adequate action to address it", according to CNBC reporting on the case. Bejar affirms he was among those who took effort to solve problems such as underaged users receiving unwanted explicit sexual advances to the leadership team and that despite knowing about these problems, the leadership team simply ignored them or refused to take action.

You are part of the leadership team at Meta.

If you were contacted by Haugen or Bejar before they blew the whistle, how would you address their concerns? What elements would you take into account and what steps would you take?

Now, imagine that they have gone public with their concerns, claiming that your company is failing to address these issues, and choosing profit over user safety. How would you deal with the backlash from their public stance on this case? Would you implement any changes to mitigate eventual unethical implications in your product? Explain.

In your answer, briefly describe and explain the ethical aspects and problems that may be at stake in this situation. Clarify the ethical concepts and theories you use in your answer as much as possible, considering what we discussed in class. Your answer should have a maximum of 1000 words. You will not be assessed according to the position you choose. Only the following will be considered:

- analytical capacity - being able to recognize the ethical aspects and implications of the situation and decision.
- clarity and rigour of the concepts and explanations.
- validity and strength of arguments.

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