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Question: 1

Which of the following are the three primary features of the Canadian Constitution?

A. The creation of statute law, tort law, and contract law
B. The creation of the federal, provincial, and municipal laws and legislation
C. The division of labour, the creation of laws, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
D. The division of powers, the creation of the courts, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Answer: D

Explanation:
The Canadian Constitution is the supreme law of Canada, providing the foundational legal framework upon which all other laws (including the Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act) are built. It is primarily composed of the Constitution Act, 1867, and the Constitution Act, 1982.
Its three most defining primary features are:
1) The Division of Powers (Sections 91 and 92), which strictly divides legislative authority between the Federal government (e.g., criminal law, national defense) and the Provincial governments (e.g., property, civil rights, and the regulation of professions like engineering).
2) The Creation of the Courts, establishing the judicial framework (like the Supreme Court of Canada) required to interpret laws and resolve disputes.
3) The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (added in 1982), which guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms to all Canadians (like freedom of expression and equality rights) and limits the power of the government to infringe upon them.
Options A, B, and C contain incorrect legal classifications or administrative concepts not explicitly foundational to the constitutional text.

Question: 2

How many public members are required on the ASET Council?

A. 2
B. 3
C. 4
D. 10% of Council

Answer: B

Explanation:
The governance structure of professional regulatory organizations in Alberta is strictly dictated by the Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act (EGPA). To ensure that self-regulating professions do not become insular and continuously act in the best interests of the public rather than just their members,

the legislation mandates the inclusion of public representation on the governing councils. For ASET, the EGPA specifically requires that the ASET Council include not fewer than 3 members of the public. These public members are appointed directly by the provincial government (typically the Minister responsible for the Act), rather than being elected by the ASET membership. Their primary role is to provide an external, non-technical perspective and to ensure that the Council's decisions regarding registration, discipline, and professional standards remain transparent and firmly aligned with the protection of public welfare. This mandated presence of three public members is a critical cornerstone of the social contract that grants self-regulatory privileges to professions like engineering and applied science technology.

Question: 3

While doing some research, a regulated member of ASET discovers two similar source documents authored by different professionals within the organization. A member of ASET published the later report and appears to have reproduced significant content from the older report and presented it as original work.
Which of the following is the first step the member should take in this situation?

A. Contact the author of the original report to discuss the similarities.
B. Notify the department manager that the member copied the earlier report.
C. Report the member to ASET for unethical conduct in copying the earlier report.
D. Contact the member who authored the second report to discuss the similarities.

Answer: D

Explanation:
Plagiarism—presenting another professional's work, data, or intellectual property as one's own without proper attribution—is a severe violation of professional integrity and the ASET Code of Ethics. However, professional courtesy and ethical due process dictate how such discoveries should be handled. Before escalating the issue to management or filing a formal complaint with ASET, the observing member must ascertain the facts. It is possible (though perhaps unlikely) that there is a legitimate explanation, such as a co-authorship agreement, an administrative error in publishing, or an internal template policy. The correct first step is to approach the individual who authored the second (suspected plagiarized) report directly and privately to discuss the similarities. This professional confrontation gives the individual an opportunity to explain the situation or voluntarily correct the ethical breach by issuing a retraction or proper citation. If the author becomes defensive, denies obvious plagiarism, or refuses to correct the issue, the observing member must then escalate the matter to management or ASET.

Question: 4

A regulated member of ASET discovers that the organization the member works for is wrongly disposing of toxic substances in a river.
Under the ASET Code of Ethics, which of the following is the first step for the member to take in this situation?

A. Clean up the toxic substance.

B. Report the situation to the regulator.
C. Decide the situation is not pertinent to the member's job.
D. Report the situation to the appropriate person in the organization.

Answer: D

Explanation:
The ASET Code of Ethics mandates that members hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public and the protection of the environment. Discovering the illegal dumping of toxic substances is a severe issue that a professional cannot ignore (Option C), as it directly violates this paramount duty. However, professional protocol dictates a specific chain of escalation. A single technologist generally does not have the resources, authority, or specialized training to safely "clean up" toxic waste on their own (Option A), which could cause further harm. While reporting to an external environmental regulator (whistleblowing) is required if the company refuses to act (Option B), the ethical first step is to report the situation internally to the appropriate person in the organization, such as a direct supervisor, the environmental compliance officer, or upper management. This fulfills the duty of fidelity to the employer by giving the company the immediate opportunity to halt the illegal activity, initiate emergency response protocols, and self-report to the authorities as required by environmental law.

Question: 5

Under most provincial human rights statutes, which of the following is not a prohibited ground of discrimination?

A. Age
B. Religion
C. Disability
D. Level of education

Answer: D

Explanation:
Human rights legislation in Canada (such as the Alberta Human Rights Act) is designed to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunities in areas like employment, housing, and services, free from prejudice. These statutes strictly prohibit discrimination based on inherent personal characteristics or protected classes, which universally include race, religious beliefs, color, gender, physical or mentaldisability, ancestry, age, marital status, and sexual orientation. However, "Level of education" is not a protected ground. In the context of employment and professional practice, an employer or regulatory body is legally permitted—and in fact required—to discriminate based on a candidate's level of education, skills, and experience if those factors are bona fide occupational requirements. For instance, ASET requires specific technical diplomas for registration, and an engineering firm will legally bypass candidates without the requisite educational background to ensure public safety and technical competence. Merit-based differentiation is a core component of professional hiring and regulation.

Question: 6

According to Kant's theory of formalism, when does conflict arise?

A. When following a universal principle may cause harm.
B. When individuals claim self-serving "rights".
C. When evaluating the benefits of an action, or when trying to distribute the benefits equally.
D. When there is a clash between extremes of excess and deficiency.

Answer: A

Explanation:
Immanuel Kant's theory of Formalism (also known as duty ethics or Deontology) postulates that ethical actions are based strictly on absolute, universal rules or duties, regardless of the consequences. According to Kant, an act is only good if it follows a principle that could be universally applied to everyone at all times (the Categorical Imperative). For example, "never lie" is a universal rule in Kantian ethics. The primary criticism and the point where conflict arises in Formalism is when rigidly following a universal principle causes obvious, preventable harm. If a murderer asks for the location of their intended victim, the universal rule "never lie" conflicts with the basic human intuition to protect life. Therefore, a strict Kantian would face a severe moral conflict because adhering strictly to the duty (telling the truth) directly results in catastrophic harm. This inflexibility in the face of competing duties or harmful outcomes is the central challenge when applying pure formalism to complex real-world engineering or societal dilemmas.

Question: 7

According to the four branches of philosophy, what is ethics the study of?

A. Right and wrong
B. Very basic ideas
C. Knowledge itself
D. The rules of reasoning

Answer: A

Explanation:
Philosophy is traditionally divided into several main branches. Metaphysics is the study of existence and very basic ideas (Option B). Epistemology is the study of knowledge itself, how we acquire it, and its limits (Option C). Logic is the study of the rules of valid reasoning and argumentation (Option D). Ethics (also known as moral philosophy) is specifically defined as the study of right and wrong, good and evil, and the moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity. In the context of professional practice, studying ethics involves understanding how to systematically evaluate complex situations, balance competing duties (e.g., duty to employer vs. duty to the public), and determine the most morally defensible course of action. It provides the intellectual framework necessary for professionals to navigate the grey areas of technology, business, and law while maintaining their integrity.

Question: 8

Which of the following is the main federal law regulating the environment in Canada?

A. The Canadian Environmental Protection Act
B. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
C. The Canadian Environmental Management Act
D. The Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights Act

Answer: A

Explanation:
In Canada, environmental regulation is a shared responsibility between federal, provincial, and municipal governments. However, the primary piece of federal legislation concerning environmental protection is the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA). CEPA is a comprehensive legal framework aimed at preventing pollution and protecting the environment and human health. It provides the federal government with the authority to assess and manage the risks posed by toxic substances, regulate emissions and effluents from federal works and undertakings, govern the disposal of waste at sea, and control the import/export of hazardous wastes. ASET professionals, particularly those working in chemical, environmental, or civil disciplines, must be intimately familiar with CEPA regulations to ensure their designs, projects, and waste management protocols do not violate federal law. Failing to adhere to CEPA can result in severe legal penalties for both the professional and the employer, as well as catastrophic harm to the public and the ecosystem.

Question: 9

Which of the following statements describes termination for just cause?

A. Termination through forced transfer
B. Termination through forced resignation
C. Termination due to a breach of the employment contract
D. Termination due to an unwanted major change in job responsibilities

Answer: C

Explanation:
In Canadian employment law, "just cause" is the legal standard that an employer must meet to terminate an employee without providing notice or severance pay. Termination for just cause occurs when an employee fundamentally breaches the core obligations of their employment contract. This breach must be severe enough to irreparably destroy the employment relationship and the trust between the employer and the employee. Examples of just cause include severe insubordination, theft, chronic absenteeism after warnings, egregious violations of safety protocols, or gross professional incompetence. It places the fault entirely on the employee's misconduct or failure to perform.
Options A, B, and D describe situations related to "constructive dismissal" (where the employer breaches the contract by unilaterally changing terms or forcing a resignation), which legally entitles the employee to severance. Only a severe breach of the employment contract by the employee justifies a strict "just cause" dismissal.

Question: 10

Which of the following documents should be stamped or sealed by a qualified professional?

A. All professional documents prepared by the organization
B. Final drawings, specifications, plans, and similar documents
C. Only professional documents for projects that affect public safety
D. Recommended but not required on any professional documentation

Answer: B

Explanation:
The professional stamp or seal is a legal mark of reliance. When a regulated professional (such as a P. Tech., or an engineer) affixes their seal to a document, they are publicly certifying that the work was prepared by them or under their direct supervision, that it meets all applicable codes and technical standards, and that they accept full professional and legal responsibility for its contents. Consequently, a seal must only be applied to final documents—such as final drawings, specifications, technical plans, and formal engineering reports—that are intended to be relied upon by others (clients, contractors, or municipalities) for construction, manufacturing, or significant decision-making. Seals should not be applied to preliminary drafts, internal memos, or non-technical business documents (Option A), nor is their use merely "recommended" (Option D); it is legally mandated for final technical works. Furthermore, their use is not strictly limited to public safety projects (Option C), but to any finalized technical design within the professional's authorized scope of practice.

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