PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

SEMESTER TWO EXAMINATIONS, 2025/26

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

LC36720 and Medicine, Ethics and Law

Time allowed : **2 HOURS**

Answer any 2 questions

Candidates are permitted to take ONE A4 page of handwritten or typed notes (both sides) into the examination.

Please state clearly which question(s) you are answering.

STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT ANSWERS TO THIS PAPER IN EITHER WELSH OR ENGLISH

Once seated, students may complete the front cover of the answer book(s) and the attendance slip ONLY.

DO NOT TURN THE EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER OVER UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

1. Please provide an example of an ethical dilemma that a doctor may experience, in which consequentialist, deontological and principalist ethical perspectives would result in different solutions to the people. Please explain how these perspectives would result in different outcomes, and then explain what you think the best solution to the issue would be, and which ethical perspective it would be closest to, and why you think it is more compelling than the other options.

[50%]

2. While prohibition of assisted suicide is considered to contravene certain human rights, legalising euthanasia would introduce a slippery slope and ultimately still fails to protect the rights the rights of vulnerable individuals. As such, the introduction of new UK legalisation in favour of legalisation should still be considered unethical.

   Critically evaluate the above statement with reference to case law and academic opinion.

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[50%]

3. Critically evaluate the following statement

   "Despite notionally containing limitations to address ethical concerns the Abortion Act 1967 has been implemented in practice to allow abortions to happen for any reason, resulting an ethically unacceptable status quo, it should therefore be repealed"

   Be sure to use both ethical arguments and caselaw in your answer.

[50%]

4. Sam is 29 and autistic. She lives at home with her mother (Julia), who assists her in a number of daily tasks that Sam has difficulty with, including preparing meals and getting ready to leave the house in the morning. Sam cannot work, but she is an active member of the local community, including participating in chess evenings hosted by the local library. She has difficulty communicating verbally consistently, but when she is not able to verbalise she can use assistive technology, in the form of an I-pad with a text to speech programme, to make her thoughts known. Recently Sam has been expressing more desire to live independently, and has started leaving the house against Julia's wishes, on one occasion this led to a confrontation and an episode in which Sam was not in control of herself and hurt both herself and her mother. Julia says that she may not be able to keep Sam at home much longer, and has asked if temporary deprivation of liberty might be justified, so that Sam can receive treatment for her autism in a secure environment due to the risk posed by possible future outbursts. Julia is additionally concerned that Sam has recently been engaging in an online relationship with Paul, a man from the local community. Julia is concerned that Sam does not have the mental capacity to understand the relationship. Julia has asked if it might be possible to put Sam

on permanent or semi-permanent birth control, in case the relationship were to become sexual, as she does not believe that Sam could cope with a possible pregnancy.

Advise Julia about her legal options, and which might be best in this case given the circumstances. You should also consider the relevant ethical issues raised by this case, and incorporate ethical analysis into your recommendations. Be sure to refer to appropriate sources of law including caselaw where appropriate.

[50%]

END OF PAPER