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ASET Ethics Examination-ASET Professional Practice Exam (PPE)

ASET ASET-Ethics-Examination

Version Demo

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QUESTION NO: 1

A regulated member of ASET is asked to participate in interviews for a new technical position at the organization. The member is surprised to see that one of the candidates being interviewed is a close friend. Which of the following actions should the member take in this situation?

A. Disclose the friendship to the employer before the interviews.

B. Keep the information confidential so as not to influence the hiring process.

C. Speak with the friend and encourage them to drop out of the competition.

D. Decline to participate in the interviews.

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Disclose the friendship to the employer before the interviews. A close friendship with an applicant creates an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest because it could reasonably call the member's objectivity and impartiality in the hiring process into question. ASET's Code of Ethics requires regulated members to avoid conflicts of interest and, where one exists or may reasonably be perceived, to disclose it promptly to the appropriate party. Early disclosure allows the employer to assess the circumstances and decide on appropriate safeguards, which may include limiting the member's role or assigning another interviewer. The important professional obligation is transparency: the member must not make a private judgment that the relationship will have no effect, because public confidence in fair and unbiased technical and organizational decisions also matters. Making the disclosure before interviews begin protects the integrity of the selection process, the employer's interests, the candidate's interests, and the member's professional standing. See ASET's Code of Ethics and the ASET Practice Standards for the duties concerning integrity, objectivity, and conflicts of interest.

QUESTION NO: 2

Which of the following statements best describes the purpose of a Code of Ethics?

A. To regulate the profession

B. To establish governing principles

C. To outline criteria for professional membership

D. To define a high standard of professional conduct

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

"To define a high standard of professional conduct" is correct because a Code of Ethics sets the ethical expectations that guide a professional's decisions and behaviour. For ASET members, this means more than meeting minimum technical or legal requirements: it establishes the standard of integrity, competence, accountability, fairness, and protection of the public that is expected when practising in a role that can affect public safety and welfare. A code gives members a practical framework for handling professional responsibilities, including situations involving clients, employers, colleagues, conflicts of interest, confidentiality, and the duty to report unsafe or unethical practice. It also makes clear that professional status carries an ongoing obligation to act in a manner that preserves public confidence in the profession. This purpose aligns with ASET's ethical framework, which identifies the public interest as a central professional responsibility and articulates the conduct expected from regulated members. The legislated professional framework supports and enables regulation, while the Code of Ethics specifically communicates the conduct standard members must uphold in their daily practice. See ASET's governance resources and Alberta's Professional Technologists Act.

QUESTION NO: 3

At what point are serious injuries which occur on a job site required to be reported to Alberta Labour by the employer?

A. Never, incidents are reported to municipalities

B. After the employee spends a week in the hospital as an inpatient

C. After the employee spends two days in the hospital as an inpatient

D. At the time the employee is admitted to the hospital as an inpatient

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

At the time the employee is admitted to the hospital as an inpatient is correct. Alberta's occupational health and safety reporting rules require an employer to report a serious injury or incident to the OHS Director as soon as possible. A serious injury includes one that results in a worker being admitted to hospital as an inpatient. Accordingly, the reporting duty is triggered when the worker is admitted; it does not depend on the worker remaining in hospital for a specified number of days. Prompt notice is essential because it enables Occupational Health and Safety to determine whether an investigation is required and, where necessary, to preserve the incident scene and address hazards that could endanger other workers. The employer should promptly notify Alberta OHS using the applicable incident-reporting process and must also comply with requirements relating to preserving the scene, subject to actions needed to rescue or treat people, prevent further injury, or protect property. Alberta's official reporting guidance describes reportable serious injuries and the immediate reporting expectation: Report a workplace incident. The governing statutory framework is available through Alberta's official legislation service: Occupational Health and Safety Act.

QUESTION NO: 4

A regulated member of ASET employed by a computer manufacturer designs some computer equipment and signs off on the drawings. Although the design has been properly prepared, the manufacturing process is faulty, which increases the cost. The manufacturing division suggests modifications to the design to reduce costs, but the member finds that they would reduce the reliability of the product and would likely cost the company more through warranty claims. The regulated member's supervisor asks the member to sign off on the changes anyway. Which of the following should the member do?

A. Sign off on the changes.

B. Report the issue to ASET.

C. Raise the reliability concerns to the supervisor.

D. Go to various media outlets to expose the company.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

"Raise the reliability concerns to the supervisor." is the appropriate immediate professional response. A regulated member is accountable for professional work performed under their authentication and must exercise independent technical judgment when asked to approve a design change. Here, the member has identified a substantiated reliability concern: the proposed modifications would impair product performance and are likely to create downstream warranty costs. Before any approval is given, that concern must be clearly communicated to the supervisor, with the technical basis and anticipated consequences documented as appropriate. This gives the employer the information needed to reconsider the proposed change and supports a decision that protects the client, users, and the public interest. ASET's ethical framework requires members to act with integrity, competence, and due regard for the consequences of their professional work; it does not permit a member to treat authentication as a purely administrative instruction. The Professional Technologists Act establishes ASET's regulatory role and the professional obligations applicable to regulated members. See ASET's Code of Ethics and Alberta's Professional Technologists Act.

QUESTION NO: 5

Which of the following statements defines "continuing professional development"?

A. Mentoring younger or new colleagues in the workplace

B. Taking courses regularly to maintain technical proficiency

C. Working towards a promotion at the place of employment

D. Maintaining competence through ongoing skill and knowledge development

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

“Maintaining competence through ongoing skill and knowledge development” correctly defines continuing professional development because CPD is a continuing, career-long process rather than a single event or a particular type of learning activity. Its purpose is to ensure that regulated members remain competent as technologies, standards, legislation, professional responsibilities, and practice environments evolve. Maintaining competence requires professionals to identify learning needs relevant to their current or intended scope of practice, undertake meaningful development activities, reflect on what was learned, and apply that learning to professional work.

Within ASET’s professional-practice framework, CPD supports the duty to practise competently and ethically in a manner that protects the public. The definition appropriately covers both maintaining existing capabilities and developing new knowledge and skills where practice demands change. It also accommodates varied forms of development, including formal and informal learning, professional participation, workplace learning, independent study, and knowledge-sharing activities, provided they contribute to competence. This broad, outcomes-focused understanding is consistent with ASET’s regulatory role and its expectation that members maintain competence throughout their professional careers. See ASET’s professional regulation information and the Government of Alberta’s Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act.

QUESTION NO: 6

A local institute of technology has asked a regulated member to present a seminar to the graduating class in the member's field of technology. Since economic times are poor at present, it is the member's opinion that some of these students may soon be competing with the member in the job market. The member decides to leave out some industry information in the seminar. Did the member act unethically?

A. The member acted ethically because it is the member's discretion as to what information to include in the seminar.

B. The member acted ethically as it is fair to omit information from a seminar that would give students a competitive edge in the market.

C. The member acted unethically by serving as a poor role model for the profession and providing incomplete information to the students.

D. The member acted unethically by accepting the invitation to present the seminar given the member's concerns about the economy.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The member acted unethically by serving as a poor role model for the profession and providing incomplete information to the students. ASET’s Code of Ethics requires regulated members to promote public knowledge and appreciation of applied science, engineering, and information technology. Presenting a seminar to graduating students is a professional activity in which the member is expected to share relevant knowledge responsibly and to model the integrity expected of the profession. Deliberately withholding pertinent industry information because the students might become job-market competitors places personal economic interest ahead of that professional responsibility.

The concern is not that every seminar must cover every possible industry topic; a presenter may appropriately define a seminar’s scope. Here, however, the omission is intentional and motivated by an effort to disadvantage future entrants to the

profession. That conduct is inconsistent with the ethical duties of integrity, fairness, and support for the profession's public understanding and development. Regulated members are expected to contribute constructively to the advancement of technology and to act in a manner that maintains the profession's reputation. Providing students a deliberately incomplete picture undermines those obligations and fails to demonstrate professional leadership. See ASET's Bylaws and Policies and the ASET Governance resources.

QUESTION NO: 7

In order to be considered for regulated membership, an applicant must have a minimum of how many years of experience?

A. 1 year

B. 2 years

C. 3 years

D. 4 years

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The required minimum is **2 years** of experience. ASET's regulated-membership assessment includes a work-experience component because eligibility is based not only on academic qualifications but also on demonstrated practice in an engineering-technology or applied-science setting. The two-year threshold establishes that an applicant has acquired sufficient relevant, progressive experience to be assessed for registration and to practise within the responsibilities associated with a regulated ASET designation.

Experience considered for this purpose must be relevant to the applicant's discipline and should show the development of technical competence, professional judgment, and increasing responsibility. Applicants are expected to document their work history clearly so ASET can evaluate whether the experience meets its registration criteria. The experience requirement is therefore a core part of becoming eligible for regulated membership, alongside the applicable education and good-character requirements.

ASET publishes membership and registration information through its official website: Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta. The governing provincial framework for the profession is also available from the Alberta King's Printer.

QUESTION NO: 8

A regulated member of ASET employed by a consulting environmental engineering firm is asked to sample the contents of a drum on a client's property. The sample reveals that the drum contents would be classified as hazardous waste. The member knows that certain steps legally have to be taken to transport and dispose of the drum, including notifying the proper authorities. The member advises his supervisor of the test results, and the supervisor tells the member to only document the existence of the samples and not say anything to the client. Which of the following ethical principles does this relate to?

A. Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public, the protection of the environment and the promotion of health and safety within the workplace.

B. Act with integrity towards clients or employers, maintain confidentiality and avoid a conflict of interest, but where such conflict arises, fully disclose the circumstances without delay to the employer or client.

C. Uphold the principle of appropriate and adequate compensation for the performance of their work.

D. Present clearly to employers and clients the possible consequences if professional decisions or judgments are overruled or disregarded.

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

“Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public, the protection of the environment and the promotion of health and safety within the workplace” is the applicable ethical principle. The sampling result identifies material that must be treated as hazardous waste and that requires legally controlled handling, transport, disposal, and notification. Suppressing that information could allow an environmental hazard to remain unmanaged, expose people to harm, and prevent the client and responsible authorities from taking the protective measures required by law.

ASET-regulated professionals have a primary professional duty to put public welfare and environmental protection ahead of directions that would conceal a material safety or environmental concern. This duty is especially important where the professional’s technical work has established facts that affect regulatory compliance and the safe management of hazardous substances. The member should therefore ensure that their professional judgment is exercised in a manner that protects the public and environment, while following applicable reporting and escalation obligations. ASET’s professional-practice framework is available through ASET, and Alberta’s governing regulatory materials are published by the Alberta King’s Printer.

QUESTION NO: 9

A regulated member of ASET is ill and is taking extended sick leave from work. The member is not able to complete any continuing professional development (CPD) activities due to the nature of the illness, but is planning to return to work as soon as possible. Which of the following actions should the member take?

A. No action is required on the part of the member.

B. Find a way to complete the mandatory CPD activities regardless of the illness.

C. Resign membership with ASET as it is not possible to complete the CPD requirement.

D. Contact ASET to request an exemption to the CPD requirement for the duration of the illness.

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Contact ASET to request an exemption to the CPD requirement for the duration of the illness. ASET requires regulated members to participate in continuing professional development so that their knowledge, skills, and professional competence remain current in support of safe, ethical practice and protection of the public. A serious illness that prevents participation is an exceptional circumstance that should be addressed directly with the regulatory body rather than ignored. Promptly contacting ASET allows the member to disclose the circumstances, follow the applicable process, and obtain a formal decision about relief from CPD obligations for the affected period. This approach preserves transparency in the member’s registration record and recognizes that the member intends to resume practice when medically able. An exemption is not automatic; the member should provide any information ASET requests and comply with the terms of ASET’s decision, including returning to normal CPD participation once the exemption period ends. ASET’s regulatory role and member requirements are described on its official website: ASET and ASET legislation and bylaws.

QUESTION NO: 10

A regulated member of ASET has recently moved into a new managerial position at a manufacturing company. The member learns that the company has tried to implement safety procedures and controls, but workers routinely ignore them. Which of the following actions should the member take to address this situation?

A. Report the company to the appropriate Occupational Health and Safety Office.

B. Immediately fire any workers who are not applying the safety procedures and controls.

C. Report the company to ASET for violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

D. Recommend to upper management the immediate enforcement of the safety procedures and controls.

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

“Recommend to upper management the immediate enforcement of the safety procedures and controls.” is the appropriate action because the member has identified an ongoing workplace hazard and is now in a position to ensure that the organization’s established safety system is actually followed. ASET-regulated professionals must place protection of the public, workers, and the environment ahead of other considerations, and must communicate professional concerns through responsible channels. In this situation, the company has already developed procedures and controls; the immediate professional need is to elevate the compliance failure to the people with authority to allocate resources, set expectations, supervise work, and apply a consistent enforcement process.

A clear recommendation to upper management should identify the observed non-compliance, the associated risk, and the need for prompt implementation measures such as competent supervision, worker instruction, documented expectations, and appropriate corrective action. This creates a defensible management response and helps establish a workplace culture in which safety controls are operational rather than merely written. Alberta’s occupational health and safety framework requires workplace parties to address hazards and meet their respective duties, while ASET’s professional-practice requirements emphasize responsible, ethical practice and public safety. See Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code and ASET Professional Practice Standards.

QUESTION NO: 11

A regulated member is participating in a hiring panel for a technical position. During deliberations, another panel member proposes rejecting a qualified applicant because the applicant may require accommodation after returning from a medical leave. Which of the following should the regulated member do?

A. Remain silent because the final hiring decision belongs to the organization.

B. Ask the applicant to provide detailed medical information before the panel continues.

C. Raise the concern and require the hiring decision to be based on job-related qualifications and the organization's authorized hiring process.

D. Promise the applicant the position to offset the panel member's comment.

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Raise the concern and require the hiring decision to be based on job-related qualifications and the organization's authorized hiring process. A candidate should be assessed on legitimate, job-related criteria rather than assumptions about medical circumstances or possible accommodation. The member should address the comment directly and ensure that the matter is referred through the employer's appropriate human-resources or hiring process if guidance is required.

Remaining silent permits an improper factor to influence the decision. Asking the applicant for unnecessary medical details is not an appropriate substitute for assessing qualifications, and independently promising the applicant employment would exceed the member's role on the hiring panel.

QUESTION NO: 12

What federal law governs privacy?

A. Privacy Act

B. Digital Millennium Copyright Act

C. Personal Information and Protection Act

D. Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act is the applicable federal privacy statute in the private-sector commercial context contemplated by this question. Commonly called PIPEDA, it establishes the framework for how organizations subject to the Act collect, use, and disclose personal information during commercial activities. Its purpose is to balance individuals' privacy rights with organizations' legitimate need to use personal information. The Act incorporates fair information principles, including accountability, identifying purposes, consent, limiting collection, safeguarding information, openness, individual access, and mechanisms for addressing compliance concerns.

For engineering and technology professionals, these requirements matter whenever professional work involves client, employee, customer, or user information. Privacy compliance should be considered throughout system design, procurement, data sharing arrangements, retention practices, access controls, and incident response processes. An organization must identify an appropriate purpose for processing personal information, obtain meaningful consent where required, limit handling to what is necessary, and protect the information with safeguards appropriate to its sensitivity. The official consolidated text is available from the Department of Justice Canada. Practical guidance on organizational responsibilities and privacy compliance is also available from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada.