

Exam ICT in a Social Context Resit: Thursday February 18, 2010

Nota bene: The answers to Parts I and II of this exam should be given on separate sheets. If you fail to do this you risk serious delays in the grading process of your work.

Part I The legal infrastructure of the information society (max 30 points)

Question 1

Directive 2000/31/EC on e-commerce apply to Information Society service providers. The Directive is implanted in the Dutch Civil code. Indicate in the following cases if (and why) the Directive applies

- a. Someone living in the Netherlands selling Dutch cheese via www.kaas.nl
- b. An American company using a server located in the Netherlands to host their website Newsoftheworld.com
- c. A Japanese firm selling Dutch wooden shoes via dutchwoodenshoes.eu
- d. A Dutch firm selling windmills to the South American market via the website www.windmills.ar

Question 2

The national secret service has tapped your e-mail because you have visited Afghanistan last summer for a ATB-tour. Is this action in accordance with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights? Motivate your answer when it is allowed and when and why this is not allowed.

ARTICLE 8

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Question 3

In what cases are ISPs indemnified for the actions of their clients?

(indemnified = secured against claims = niet aansprakelijk gesteld kunnen worden)

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Part II The history (and the future) of the information society(max 70 points)

Answers should be given by means of well-formed sentences. Show that you understand what you are writing! In case of doubt add another sentence!

Question 1

In the history of mankind sociologists distinguish different types of societies.

- a. Give a characterization of the earliest two types of society: hunters & gatherers and horticultural societies.
- b. Give a possible explanation for the transition from hunters & gatherers to horticultural societies.

Question 3

- a. Characterize the drum language of the Lokele.
- b. Ong has argued that this drum language beautifully illustrates aspects of oral culture. What is Ong's argument? Give two other *different* characteristics of oral culture.

Question 4

Treat the consequences of the introduction of the ox-drawn plow. When was it introduced?

Question 5

- a. Lynn White, Jr has argued that in the rise of feudalism and the chivalric culture of the later Middle Ages one simple invention played a major role. What is the argument?
- b. Characterize the industrial society in a sociological way.

Question 6

Give at least 6 aspects of the social and cultural impact of Hollywood's movie industry.

Question 7

- a. Which five definitions of the information society can be distinguished? Explain them.
- b. James Beniger has argued that in the formation of the information society repeated control crises played a central role. Give an example of such a crisis that led to new technology.