



Ethics 1 - Personal Gifts Quiz

ANSWER KEY

Instructions: The following quiz contains questions designed to assess your understanding of the course you just completed. Please complete the quiz by circling the best answer for each of the following questions. Answer each question with the answer(s) you feel is the best response. Note that some questions require more than one answer as indicated by the "Select all that apply" after the question stem. Be sure to circle all answers that apply in those questions.

Attendees must score 80% or better to pass (i.e., answer 12 questions correctly).

1. If you won a free month of groceries in a contest you had entered at your local grocery store, would that be a gift?
A. Yes
B. No
2. While you were traveling on business, the hotel at which you stayed offered a "free" dinner after a 5-night stay. The source of this gift was:
A. Federal
B. Non-Federal, Prohibited
C. Non-Federal, Non-Prohibited
D. None of the above
3. CPO Rob Armstrong, a Fisheries inspector, was talking to a fishing boat captain about transmission problems he'd had with his pick-up truck. The captain tells Rob to bring the truck to the dock the next evening because his son moonlights as an auto mechanic and can fix it free of charge. What ethical options does Rob have? Select all that apply.
A. Politely decline the manager's offer.
B. Accept the offer, but pay the fair market value for the repair.
C. Count himself fortunate to get transmission work done free of charge.
4. Assume that you have never accepted a gift from a particular prohibited source. On one occasion an employee of that source offered you three items: a \$15 T-shirt, a \$10 baseball cap, and a \$5 framed baseball card. Could you accept the \$15 T-shirt and the \$5 framed baseball card as they were offered?
A. Yes
B. No

Feedback: You may accept gifts totally \$50.00 during a year but only \$20.00 on a particular occasion.



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5. While surfing the Internet, you find a website for a professional society that has books that will help you do your job. You also find titles of interesting articles, but you would have to join the society to get them. When you look up the membership fees you find there is a 75% reduction for federal government personnel. You want to join. Can you take advantage of the reduced membership fee?

A. Yes

B. No

6. An environmental industry association that is a prohibited source sponsors an industry-wide, two-day seminar. Registration is \$400 and attendance is expected to be approximately 400. A Coast Guard environmental contractor pays \$2,000 to the association so that the association can extend free invitations to five Coast Guard officials named by the contractor. May the Coast Guard officials accept the invitation?

A. Yes

B. No

Feedback: Coast Guard officials may not accept this gift. Because the contractor, not the sponsoring association, specified the invitees and bore the cost, the free attendance is considered a gift from the contractor. This does not fall under any Exception. The contractor could pay \$2,000 to the association to invite any 5 federal employees. Then a Coast Guard official invited as one of those 5 federal employees could attend if his participation were determined to be in the interest of the Coast Guard.

7. A national fitness center chain is offering a special reduced membership price to all Coast Guard military and civilian personnel assigned to the Greater Toledo area. May Coast Guard personnel who are assigned to that area accept the discounted fitness center memberships?

A. Yes

B. No

8. An employee of the Coast Guard Public Affairs Office has been invited to a cocktail party given by a noted Washington hostess who is not a prohibited source. May she attend?

A. Yes

B. No

9. Janine's brother gave her a tennis racket on her birthday. Can she keep it even though he works for a contractor that does business with the Coast Guard?

A. Yes

B. No



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10. You've earned enough frequent flyer miles from your Government travel that you could take a free trip to Hawaii. You want to take leave and use those miles for your vacation. Can you use those miles for your vacation?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C.

11. Coast Guard Credit Union is offering its members discounted loans on car purchases this month. Only Coast Guard personnel and civilian employees are eligible for membership in the credit union, and you're a member. Credit unions of similar size for employees of many nonfederal organizations offer the same kinds of discounted loans. May you take the discounted loan?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Feedback: Although the credit union discounted loan is a gift, a federal ethics rule permits all of the credit union members to accept the gift because the same discounted loan is broadly available to large segments of the public through organizations of similar size.

12. Your job is to update the rules for response plans for vessels carrying noxious liquid substances. Recently you were offered football tickets from the president of Liquid Sulfa Transport Vessels, Inc. The source of this gift was:

- A. Federal
- B. Non-Federal, Prohibited
- C. Non-federal, Non-Prohibited
- D. None of the above

13. CPO Margaret Hatch, a container inspector, went the 'extra mile' to ensure the timely inspection of a container of a hazardous chemical needed by a research institution. The following day, she received a thank you note from the importer and a \$100 gift certificate to a local department store. What should she do?

- A. Since she went the 'extra mile' on this inspection, she may accept the gift.
- B. She may donate it to the local shelter for the homeless.
- C. She must return the gift certificate with a note explaining that she was just doing her job.

Feedback: Chief Hatch was offered the gift because she is in federal service. Such gifts cannot be accepted unless a specific gift rule permits acceptance. There is no specific gift rule that permits acceptance.



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14. It is the holiday season and a contractor has brought a fruit basket to you and your co-workers. What can you do with it?
- A. Dig in and celebrate. Send the vendor a thank you note.
 - B. Throw it away
 - C. **Donate it to a local charity**
 - D. Return it to the contractor

Feedback: While all of the solutions are possible, because the offered gift is perishable, it is better to donate such gifts from contractors to local charities, i.e. a food bank for perishable goods. In addition, someone should let the vendor know that the basket will be donated and that the giving of items such as food baskets and other gifts is strongly discouraged.

15. PlayGolfAllDay Country Club will waive its \$8,000 membership initiation fee if you are a government employee with a grade of 0-4/GS-12 and above. As an 0-4 in the Coast Guard, you qualify for such a waiver, and the country club is not a "prohibited source." May you accept the waiver of the initiation fee?
- A. Yes
 - B. **No**

Feedback: The offer to waive the initiation fee is restricted to government personnel, so it is made to you because of your official position. Although the country club is not a "prohibited source," the offer to waive the initiation fee is made only to higher-grade personnel. So the waiver is a benefit that discriminates among government employees in favor of higher-grade personnel. Since no other exception applies, you may not accept the benefit.