1) A person can be declared dead while their heart is beating.

True or False

2) A person who has irreversibly lost consciousness, but continues other bodily functions, is dead.

True or False

3)      Which of the following scenarios best describes the current medico-legal definition of death, as defined by the Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA)?

*(1)*   *Irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions*

*(2)*   *Irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brainstem*

*(3)*   *Irreversible loss of higher brain function in the cerebral cortex*

a.   Any individual who has sustained BOTH (1) and (2)

b.  Any individual who has sustained EITHER (1) or (2)

c.   Any individual who has sustained BOTH (1) and (3)

d.  Any individual who has sustained EITHER (1) or (3)

**Case #1**

B.R. is a 58-year-old who suffers an ischemic stroke with severe anoxic brain injury. Neurological testing shows irreversible cessation of function of the entire brain, including the brain stem. When the neurologist consults the surrogate decision maker about the state of their spouse, they say “If my spouse doesn’t have any brain function left then they are dead. Please stop all treatment.”

Q1: I am frustrated with the surrogate’s view of death.

1- Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3- Somewhat disagree, 4- Somewhat agree, 5- Agree, 6- Strongly agree

Q2: If I were the physician, it is \_\_\_\_\_ that I would accommodate the surrogate’s request.

1- Strongly unlikely, 2-Unlikely, 3- Somewhat unlikely, 4- Somewhat likely, 5- Likely, 6- Strongly likely

Q3: I think the surrogate has a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ view of death.

1- Totally unacceptable, 2-Unacceptable, 3- Somewhat unacceptable, 4- Somewhat acceptable, 5- Acceptable, 6- Perfectly acceptable

Q4: Is the surrogate’s view of death consistent with current legal and medical standards?

Yes/No

Q5: Please describe your reaction to this case and why you felt this way.

**Case #2**

M.J. is a 58-year-old who suffers an ischemic stroke with severe anoxic brain injury. Neurological testing shows M.J. in a state of permanent unconsciousness with preserved brain stem function. When the neurologist consults the surrogate decision maker about the state of their spouse, they say, “I don’t care if the brain stem is functioning. If my spouse can’t experience the joys of life then I think they are dead. Please stop all treatment.”

Q1: I am frustrated with the surrogate’s view of death.

1- Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3- Somewhat disagree, 4- Somewhat agree, 5- Agree, 6- Strongly agree

Q2: If I were the physician, it is \_\_\_\_\_ that I would accommodate the surrogate’s request.

1- Strongly unlikely, 2-Unlikely, 3- Somewhat unlikely, 4- Somewhat likely, 5- Likely, 6- Strongly likely

Q3: I think the surrogate has a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ view of death.

1- Totally unacceptable, 2-Unacceptable, 3- Somewhat unacceptable, 4- Somewhat acceptable, 5- Acceptable, 6- Perfectly acceptable

Q4: Is the surrogate’s view of death consistent with current legal and medical standards?

Yes/No

Q5: Please describe your reaction to this case and why you felt this way.

**Case #3**

T.S. is a 58-year-old who suffers an ischemic stroke with severe anoxic brain injury. Neurological testing shows irreversible cessation of function of the entire brain, including the brain stem. When the neurologist consults the surrogate decision maker about the state of their spouse, they say “As long as my spouse’s heart is beating, they are still alive. Please continue all treatment”.

Q1: I am frustrated with the surrogate’s view of death.

1- Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3- Somewhat disagree, 4- Somewhat agree, 5- Agree, 6- Strongly agree

Q2: If I were the physician, it is \_\_\_\_\_ that I would accommodate the surrogate’s request.

1- Strongly unlikely, 2-Unlikely, 3- Somewhat unlikely, 4- Somewhat likely, 5- Likely, 6- Strongly likely

Q3: I think the surrogate has a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ view of death.

1- Totally unacceptable, 2-Unacceptable, 3- Somewhat unacceptable, 4- Somewhat acceptable, 5- Acceptable, 6- Perfectly acceptable

Q4: Is the surrogate’s view of death consistent with current legal and medical standards?

Yes/No

Q5: Please describe your reaction to this case and why you felt this way.