



Worksheet 2.A: Answer sheet – The law, the internet and me.

1. I can say whatever I want online because in Ireland we have a right to freedom of speech.

False

While there is a constitutional right to freedom of speech, that right is not absolute and must be balanced against other people's rights. As outlined above, you could be committing both criminal and civil offences, for example, you cannot incite hatred against a person online or defame them etc. Cyberbullying another person online can lead to criminal charges of harassment.

In addition to this, if your words cause damage to another person, they may take a defamation and/or personal injuries claim against you.

You should also bear in mind that, if you are a student, your school's code of behaviour might apply to statements you make online if they could have a negative impact on the school and the school could take disciplinary action against you. Similarly, if you have a job, your contract of employment might provide that you can be dismissed if you tarnish the good name of the employer, online or otherwise.

2. Match the correct term with the correct definition:

A-2 B-4 C-1 D-3

It is important to point out here that all of these are ways we are protected and not designed solely to punish us but more to ensure we know the limits of our rights so we don't disturb or impact on someone else's rights. They mark the line of acceptable behaviour.

3. Harassment is an unwanted pattern of behaviour that can leave you feeling intimidated, scared, annoyed and/or humiliated. An example of online harassment is: (tick all that apply)

All of these could constitute Harassment.

Section 10 of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997 provides that it is an offence to persistently follow, watch, pester or beset, or otherwise communicate with a person. The Courts have heard harassment cases in which a person who persistently sent unwanted messages and images over social media to another person was deemed to have harassed that other person.

Penalties if convicted are a fine of €1,500 and/or imprisonment for 12 months. Conviction on indictment is fine and/or imprisonment for 7 years.

4. Setting up a fake social media profile in order to impersonate someone, publish false information or target another person is an act of cyberbullying

True

Setting up a fake profile is a form of bullying commonly referred to as impersonation.