

## **W201 The Individual and the State**

### **Questions on fraud and other offences of dishonesty**

1. Gradgrind applies by computer for a government grant in order to open a factory in a bleak northern development area. He falsely represents online that he is solvent when in fact he is bankrupt. The government's computer credits Gradgrind's bank account with £50,000 without human intervention.

What offences has Gradgrind committed?

2. Miss Havisham decides to buy a wedding dress and finds one she likes for £1000. Her credit card limit is £500. Undeterred she presents the card to Dorrit the shop assistant and buys the dress. Challenged later Miss Havisham says she never intended to keep the dress as it would only gather cobwebs.

Has Miss Havisham committed any offence?

3. Copperfield takes Twist to a restaurant for a meal fully intending to pay. After the meal realising they have no money they wait in their seats for 10 minutes till the waiter is in the kitchen then slip out unnoticed without paying. Two days later both return - now in funds - to settle the bill. Their offer is refused and the police are called.

What is Copperfield's criminal liability?

4. Pickwick a penniless vagrant books into Bleak House (a Cornish hotel) falsely stating that an employer Dombey is to be responsible for the bill. Two days later he leaves by a side entrance without paying.

Which offences has Pickwick committed?

5. Heep agrees to sell a pony and trap to Chuzzlewit for 100 guineas. Chuzzlewit gives Heep a cheque for 100 guineas and takes the pony and trap. Due to the unexpected failure of Chuzzlewit's investments he cannot put his account in funds and his cheque bounces.

What offences has Chuzzlewit committed?