Answers to Practice Questions for Exam 1
(Online Privacy and Online Identity)

Answer 1-PandI:
By demonstrating possession of knowledge (e.g., a secret password), artifacts (e.g., a uniform), or skills (e.g., the ability to swim), a person proves that he is a member of a certain group and should be treated in a certain way. The demonstration need not involve revealing the person’s name or address, but it can if revealing this information is appropriate. This type of identification is relevant to Internet-based interaction (and, more generally, to interaction in very large, geographically distributed systems), because it provides a way to control access to valuable resources without necessarily requiring very large numbers of people to reveal personally identifying, sensitive information.

Answer 2-PandI:
Nissenbaum rejects the argument that protecting privacy means strictly limiting access to personal information or enforcing people’s right to control information about themselves. She advances the theory that what people really care about is whether information about them “flows appropriately” and is used appropriately, two questions that can only be answered in context. This notion of “contextual integrity” is highly relevant to Internet-based interaction, because people will not accept strict limitations on flow of personal information; Internet use has grown explosively over the past 20 years precisely because it enables people to share information. Nonetheless, people do not want the information that they share to be used inappropriately; how to express and enforce notions of “appropriateness” is the subject of contextual integrity.

Answer 3-PandI:
No, a cert can bind public keys to end entities that are not people’s real names. For examples, see slide 12 of Lecture 10 (October 1, 2013).

Answer 4-PandI:
Information collection, information processing, information dissemination, and invasion. (Note that these are all activities that can result in loss of privacy.)