

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**FINAL EXAMINATION MAY 2007**

**COURSE TITLE: NURSING ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

**COURSE CODE: NUR 204**

**TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS**

**TOTAL MARKS: 100**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS**
- 3. ONE MARK ALLOCATED FOR EACH CORRECT FACT UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED**

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## QUESTION 1

**Choose the most appropriate answer and write the corresponding letter e.g. 1.1 C**

- 1.1 Which of the following is the purpose of the Nurse Practice Act?
- a) Protect the health of the public at large by setting minimum standards
  - b) Protect the profession from admitting undesirable practitioners to the professional practice area
  - c) Permit periodic evaluation of all practitioners
  - d) Assure all patients rights are legally protected
- 1.2 If a nurse is found guilty of negligence and liable for monetary damages then:
- a) The nurse will loose his licence to practice automatically
  - b) The nurse will be entitled to a hearing before the licence can be suspended or revoked
  - c) The nurse will have his/her licence suspended until a hearing can be arranged
  - d) All the action against the nurse ceases because of the civil action
- 1.3 Informed consent acts to:
- a) Do good and not harm other people
  - b) Inform patients about their condition
  - c) Provide the subjects with adequate information regarding participation in a study
  - d) Ensure that most decisions we make also affects others
- 1.4 In Swaziland a person can only practice nursing if:
- a) Registered with the Swaziland Nurses Association
  - b) The Medical and Health Services Council approves
  - c) Registered with the Swaziland Nursing Council
  - d) Has a certificate/diploma confirming that s/he has studied and passed
- 1.5 The Regulatory Authority's Rights to Licence Nurses is in accordance with the:
- a) Swaziland National Health Policy in 1986
  - b) Medical and Dental Council
  - c) Nurses and Midwives Act of 1965
  - d) Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions
- 1.6 Meta-ethics:
- a) Involves articulating the good habits that we should acquire
  - b) Concerned with the duties we should follow
  - c) Investigates where our ethical principles come from, and what they mean
  - d) Involves examining specific controversial issues such as abortion, homosexuality, etc

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- 1.7 Normative ethics addresses all the following EXCEPT:
- What should be the scope of practice of various categories of nurses after having undertaken different nursing courses?
  - When can a nurse legally be regarded as having been negligent?
  - Seek justification for why these are correct or incorrect actions or attitudes
  - What level of competence can be expected of each category of nursing?
- 1.8 Nursing ethics is based on all the following EXCEPT:
- Personal morality
  - Unconditional free choice
  - Individual responsibility
  - Nursing norms and values
  - Behaviour which is acceptable to society and to the nursing profession
- 1.9 Descriptive ethics:
- May involve the consequences of our behaviour on others
  - Predict what is right or wrong
  - Is a factual explaining in behaviour or moral beliefs?
  - Is a formal division of ethics?
- 1.10 Deontological theories:
- Base morality on specific, foundational principles of obligation or duty
  - Emphasise moral education since virtuous character traits are developed in one's youth
  - Involves the psychological basis of our moral judgements
  - None of these are true
- 1.11 Utilitarianism specific that:
- An action is morally right if the consequences of the action is more favourable than the unfavourable only to the agent performing the action
  - An action is morally right if the consequences of action are more favourable than unfavourable to everyone except the agent
  - An action is morally right if the consequences of that action are more favourable than unfavourable to everyone.
  - Claim that certain acts are right and others are wrong because of the conformity or non-conformity to duty or obligation
- 1.12 Teleological theories:
- Put the rightness of an action above its goodness
  - Consider the consequences of an action as a measure of a action's good
  - Stresses that fidelity to principle and duty are the most important
  - Follow the rules, laws and regulations

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- 1.13 The ethical principle of justice:
- a) Requires nurses to act in ways that benefit patients
  - b) Includes the principles of cost benefit analysis and paternalism
  - c) Focuses on equitable scarce resource allocation
  - d) Treatment given according to affordability
- 1.14 Paternalism is all of the following EXCEPT:
- a) The intentional limitation of another's autonomy
  - b) To treat others in such a way that enables them to make the choice
  - c) Is justified by an appeal to beneficence or the welfare or needs of another
  - d) The prevention of harm takes precedence over any potential harm caused by interference with the individual autonomy
- 1.15 The marks of a profession are:
- a) Competence in a body of specialised theory with well developed technical skills based on this theory
  - b) An acknowledgement of specific duties and responsibilities towards the individuals it serves and toward society
  - c) The right to train, admit, discipline and dismiss its members for failure to sustain competence or observe the duties and responsibilities
  - d) All of the above

**For Question 1.16 to 1.25 indicate which of the following statements is TRUE or FALSE**

- 1.16 Non-consequentialism is the same as teleology.
- 1.17 Ethical principles serve as the criteria by means of which we can measure the correctness or moral worth of our actions as nurses.
- 1.18 The philosophy of nursing indicates that which is right or wrong.
- 1.19 The codes of professional conduct determine the parameters of nursing practice.
- 1.20 Egoism implies that while one may do things for others, one's own pleasures or comfort are the chief end of moral action.
- 1.21 The principle of beneficence includes the principle of cost benefit analysis and paternalism.
- 1.22 In a trade union, only nurses who are regarded as part of management are not entitled to membership of the trade union.
- 1.23 The scope of practice regulation is an outline of what nurses in particular categories may do.

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- 1.24 Autonomy is an ethical principle that obliges one to provide good (promote someone's welfare).
- 1.25 Active euthanasia is the withholding or withdrawing of a life sustaining measure in order to allow a person to die.

(25 marks)

## QUESTION 2

### Case Study

A 24-year old woman pregnant with twins is admitted in premature labour to the delivery ward. She has received her prenatal care in another health centre and is unknown to the hospital staff. The patient's haemoglobin is found to be very low (4.7mg) so preparation for blood transfusion is made. At this point the patient states that she is a Jehovah's Witness and will not consent to any blood transfusion. The Nurse talks to the patient's husband, hoping he will encourage his wife to consent to the transfusion. However, he agrees with his wife in refusing blood products. The Nurse respects the choices of the couple but calls a Physician to assist in what she thinks might become a difficult delivery situation.

Within the hour the first twin is born and appears to be in good condition. The patient, however, begins to show signs of cardiac failure and become unresponsive. The Nurse feels that she ought to do whatever she can to save the life of the unborn twin so she starts the transfusion shortly before the Physician arrives. The second child is born and requires resuscitation with eventually proves successful. The mother, however, goes into complete cardiac failure even though she has received three units of blood. Attempts to resuscitate her are unsuccessful and she dies in the delivery room. The Physician assures the Nurse that starting the blood transfusion was the appropriate thing to do. He does not think it necessary to tell the husband that his wife received a blood transfusion during delivery but leaves the decision to her.

- a) Discuss the ethical issues and values surrounding this case. 10 marks
- b) Explain how religious prescriptions of the following religions and faiths view death:
- i) Islam 5 marks
  - ii) Judaism 5 marks
  - iii) Christianity 5 marks

(25 marks)

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### QUESTION 3

- a) Your 36-year old client has tested positive for HIV. He asks that you not tell his wife of the results and claim he is not ready to tell her yet.
- i) Explain your role legally? 5 marks
  - ii) Elaborate on what would you say to the patient 5 marks
- b) Describe ethical implications for nursing practice under the following:
- i) Beneficence 5 marks
  - ii) Justice 5 marks
  - iii) Autonomy 5 marks

**(25 marks)**

### QUESTION 4

- a) Compare the main arguments for and against termination of pregnancy. 10 marks
- b) Discuss the informed consent process under the following:
- i) Information the patients must receive in order to give an informed consent. 6 marks
  - ii) Accountability of the physician and nurse in explaining informed consent. 9 marks

**(25 marks)**

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