

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL NURSING
EXAMINATION PAPER MAY 2007

Course code	NUR 506
Course title	Ethos and Professional Practice
Duration	Two (2) hours
Total marks	70
No. of students	28

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer ALL questions.
2. Hand writing must be legible.
3. Read all questions carefully and thoughtfully.
4. Figures in brackets represent the number of marks allocated per question or a part thereof.

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Question 1

Like in many other developing countries, nursing in Swaziland is striving toward attaining the status of professionalism. However, starting from the year 2000, many Swazi nurses have resigned especially from the public health sector to go and work in developed countries.

- 1.1 Describe any four characteristics of a profession. (8)
- 1.2 Outline how the four characteristics you have given in answer 1.1 have been influence by the departures of these nurses. (4)
- 1.3 Describe any four professional rights that may be responsible for the mass resignations by so many Swazi nurses. (8)

[20 points]

Question 2

Nursing is practised in a variety of settings. However, it is not always possible to practise nursing the way it ought to be practised.

- 2.1 Discuss any five organisational and/or social constraints that may inhibit nurses to practice ethical nursing. (15)

[15 points]

Question 3

There was an advertisement for a position of staff nurse in the oncology unit of Hospital X. The criteria for selecting the most suitable candidate was based on Kohlberg's theory. The outcome of all the interviews showed that all candidates had characteristics of persons who met only up to the second level of this theory.

- 3.1 Briefly outline what Kohlberg's theory purports. (5)
- 3.2 Describe any four characteristics of a nurse who is said to be at level two of this theory. (8)
- 3.3 Take a position and state whether or not management should select one of those candidates and employ her/him in the oncology unit. (1) Motivate your answer. (1)

[15 points]

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Question 4

Nurses should always be concerned with the welfare of clients. In order to promote the clients' health, you choose, among others, to use the principle of non-maleficence.

- 4.1 Define the principle of non-maleficence. (2)
- 4.2 Describe any four ways you would use this principle to enhance the health of clients, be it in a general hospital ward, psychiatric unit, at home during home-based care, community-based clinic or maternity unit. (8)

[10 points]

Question 5

A 38-year old single mother of three children aged 12, 7 and 3 years old is in the final stages of full blown AIDS and continuously bedridden. The 12-year-old does not attend school any longer in order to nurse her mother and also to look after her youngest sibling. With a choking-like voice and tears in her eyes, the 12-year old looks straight into the face of the newly qualified male nurse who has made a home visit to the family for the first time and asks, "What is wrong with my mother, nurse?" and she adds, "Will she also die like our father did last year?"

- 5.1 Identify the ethical/moral principle you would choose to guide you in answering the little girl's first question. (1) Motivate your answer. (1) [2]
- 5.2 Describe any three moral or ethical consequences of utilizing the principle you have written in answer 5.1. (6)
- 5.3 How would you answer the little girl's second question? (1) Motivate your answer. (1)

[10 points]

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