

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**FINAL EXAMINATION DECEMBER 2007**

- COURSE TITLE : NURSING ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE I**
- COURSE CODE : NUR 205**
- TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS**
- TOTAL MARKS : 75**
- 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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BY THE INVIGILATOR***

## Question 1

Question 1.1 – 1.14 you choose the correct letter only and write in your answer book, e.g. E

1.1 The following definition is by Virginia Henderson a nurse theorist:

- A. Nursing is a human clinical science that constitutes the body of knowledge for the practice of persons registered under the Nursing Act.
- B. Nursing is the to mankind that enables people to attain and maintain good health and prevent illness, or, when illness occurs, helps and supports them, so that they may overcome their illnesses and regain full health.
- C. Nursing is primarily assisting the individual (sick or well) in performance of those activities contributing to the health or its recovery (or a peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge.
- D. Nursing is a caring profession which supports and assists the patient ill or well, at all stages of life, to achieve and maintain his potential for health optimally.

1.2 A philosophy

- A. Is an explanation of a system or of abstract principles of a science or art.
- B. Express views and beliefs about the nature of something.
- C. Examines the ways people can exercise their power in order to bring about human benefit.
- D. Is a worthwhile standard derived from many sources such as a person's culture.

1.3 Utilitarianism theory

- A. Maintains that the moral rightness of action is determined by the balance of good and bad consequences of those actions.
- B. Analyses the moral language and concepts used in ethics inquiry and the logic of moral justification.
- C. Maintains that the moral rightness of actions is determined by the nature or their form.
- D. Maintains that an action has moral meaning or value if it is practically significant.

1.4 A nurse demonstrates professional maturity if s/he exhibits which of the following:

- 1. Knowledge and acceptance of all the responsibilities inherent in nursing education and practice.
  - 2. Mutual trust and respect in relationships between clients and different practitioners.
  - 3. Maintenance of competence and ongoing learning.
  - 4. Risk taking without responsibility for outcomes.
  - 5. Reasoned decision making in all domains.
- A. 1, 2, 3 and 5
  - B. 1, 3 and 4
  - C. 2 and 4 only
  - D. 2, 3, 4 and 5

- 1.5 In order for nurses to demonstrate professionalism, they should be:
- A. People who abuse their power to get work done.
  - B. Having a special responsibility to be sensitive to the way in which power conferred on them by their professional standing is used.
  - C. Very protective of clients only.
  - D. Controllers of nursing services as well as clients and caregivers.
- 1.6 A(n) ----- is described as a stance that is taken and expressed through behaviours, feelings, imaginations, knowledge and actions.
- A. Right.
  - B. Choice.
  - C. Value.
  - D. Integrity.
- 1.7 Deontology or duty based theory is:
- A. A moral principle which is universal, unconditional and imperative.
  - B. A principle which lies between goal-based and rule-based theories of ethics.
  - C. A theory which is more directly from the Christian tradition.
  - D. Linked with the development of what some have called situation ethics.
- 1.8 The nurse must at all times do everything in his/her power EXCEPT to:
- A. Maintain the health status of the patient.
  - B. Prevent deterioration of life.
  - C. Do what s/he can to save life.
  - D. Prevent deformity and relieve pain but not suffering.
- 1.9 Informed consent acts to:
- A. Do good and not harm other people.
  - B. Inform patients about their conditions.
  - C. Provide the subjects with adequate information regarding participation in a study.
  - D. Ensure that most decisions we make also affect others.
- 1.10 The nurse and doctor must be able to rely on each other, because the nurse has a duty to his/her patient to:
- A. Keep a doctor informed about patient's condition.
  - B. Carry out treatment or investigations s/he has prescribed with due care, skill and honesty.
  - C. Care for the patient with knowledge and skill.
  - D. All of the above.
- 1.11 The employer's obligation to the nurse is to:
- 1. Enable the nurse to practice legally and ethically.
  - 2. Ensure that a job description and orientation have been done.
  - 3. The work load is manageable.

4. Ensure personal and professional recognition of the nurse.
  5. Enforce discipline to the nurse.
- A. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
  - B. 1, 2, 3 and 4
  - C. 2 and 3 only
  - D. 3 and 5

1.12 Which of the following is the nurse's obligation to the patient?

- A. The nurse must protect the patient from harm.
- B. The nurse has a duty to co-operate with other personnel.
- C. The nurse must observe ethical principles only in all aspects.
- D. The nurse must present a calm, judgemental appearance and be confident.

1.13 The purpose of collective bargaining is to:

- A. Arrange relations between employers and employees.
- B. Prevent the employee from speaking with the union.
- C. Prevent and settle disputes by negotiation between employers and employees over which it has no control.
- D. Enforce discipline to the employees.

1.14 Non-normative ethics is:

- A. The type of ethics inquiry that examines standards or criteria for right or wrong conduct.
- B. The type of ethics inquiry that investigates the phenomena of moral beliefs and behaviour or analyses the moral language and concepts used in ethics inquiry and the logic of moral justification.
- C. The philosophical analysis of the moral phenomena moral language and ethical foundations and judgements in nursing practice.
- D. Defends a system of moral principles and rules to determine which actions are right or wrong.

Question 1.15 – 1.25 are **True and False** statement. Write in your answer book True or False against the question number e.g. 1.5 – True

1.15 The Swaziland Nurses Code of Ethics, like other professional codes, has no legal force, as opposed to the licensure laws, promulgated by the Swaziland Nursing Council.

1.16 The Florence Nightingale pledge was drawn up in 1893 by a committee headed by Mrs L.E. Gretter. Miss Nightingale was involved in its formulation.

1.17 Consequentialist (teleology) moral theories are helpful when one has to make decisions about health care delivery.

1.18 Ethical principles are laws of conduct that are derived from our ethical system or our view.

1.19 Paternalism maintains that one should always act in such a way that one produces the greatest amount of long-term happiness for the greatest number of people.

- 1.20 Normative ethics raises questions about what is right, what is good and how to decide.
- 1.21 Culture is not static and many people may adopt and exhibit values that are characteristic of different and sometimes competing cultural life ways.
- 1.22 Religious values are individual beliefs, attitudes, standards and ideals that guide behaviour and how a person experiences life.
- 1.23 Ethics is the same as etiquette as is also addresses standards of style decorum valued by a particular group.
- 1.24 Personal ethics can be appropriately described as the agreed standards and behaviours expected of members of a given professional group.
- 1.25 The ethical principle of autonomy claims that individuals ought to be permitted personal liberty to determine their own actions according to plans that they have chosen.

**Total Marks (25)**

**Question 2**

- a) Explain the purposes/aims of the Nursing Act. **5 marks**
- b) Describe the extent to which nursing profession meets the requirements of a profession. **5 marks**
- c) The functions/roles of a nurse may be regarded as dependent, interdependent and independent. Describe the dependent, interdependent and independent roles of a registered nurse. **5 marks**
- d) Describe the specific nursing implications for patients of the following religions:
- i) Hebrews/Judaism [5 Marks]
  - ii) Christian [5 Marks]
- 10 marks**

**Total Marks (25)**

**Question 3**

- a) Professional nurses assume a number of roles and sub-roles concurrently as they seek to provide comprehensive care to clients in a variety of health care settings. Describe the role of the professional nurse as:
- (i) Care giver **5 marks**
  - (ii) Client advocate **5 marks**
  - (iii) Counsellor **5 marks**
- b) Explain the following concepts:
- (i) Normative ethics **5 marks**
  - (ii) Descriptive ethics **5 marks**

**Total Marks (25)**