

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**SEMESTER I**

**DECEMBER 2010**

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

**COURSE TITLE : ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

**COURSE CODE : NUR 205**

**TIME ALLOCATED : 2 HOURS**

**MARKS ALLOCATED: 75 MARKS**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. READ QUESTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**
- 2. ANSWER ALL THREE QUESTIONS.**
- 3. EACH CORRECT FACT IS WORTH ONE MARK UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE**
- 4. WRITE NEATLY AND CLEARLY.**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS GRANTED PERMISSION**

## QUESTION 1

**CHOOSE THE MOST APPROPRIATE ANSWER AND WRITE THE CORRESPONDING LETTER IN YOUR ANSWER BOOK.**

**1.1 Scope of practice:**

- a. Governs nursing practice and nursing registration
- b. Its purpose is to protect the public health and safety of citizens
- c. Defines nursing and explains the accountabilities and limitations of nursing practice.
- d. Defines the requirements for nursing education programmes

**1.2 The code of ethics:**

- a. Are statements by which the quality of practice, service and education can be judged
- b. Identifies measurement criteria to measure behaviour
- c. Are laws that relate to your registration and practice of nursing in the country
- d. A succinct of statement of the ethical obligations and duties of every individual who enters the nursing profession

**1.3 Which of the following is the purpose of the Nurse Practice Act?**

- a. Protect the health of the public at large by setting minimum nursing 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

**1.4 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.

**1.5 Normative ethics addresses all of the following EXCEPT**

- a. What should be the scope of practice of various categories of nurses having undertaken different nursing courses
- b. When can a nurse legally be regarded as having been negligent?
- c. Seek justification for why these are correct or incorrect actions of attitudes
- d. What level of competence can be expected of each category of nursing?

**1.6 Nursing ethics is based on all of the following EXCEPT:**

- a. Personal morality
- b. Unconditional free choice
- c. Individual responsibility
- d. Nursing norms and values

**1.7 Descriptive ethics:**

- a. May involve the consequences of our behaviour to others
- b. Predict what is right or wrong
- c. Is a factual explanation in behaviour or moral beliefs
- d. Is a formal division of ethics

**1.8 Deontological theories:**

- a. Base morality on specific, foundational principles of obligation or duty
- b. Emphasise moral education since virtuous character traits are developed on one's youth
- c. Involves the psychological basis of our moral judgement
- d. None of these are true.

**1.9 Utilitarianism specifies that:**

- a. An action is morally right if the consequences of unfavourable only to the agent performing the action
- b. An action is morally right if the consequences of action are more favourable than unfavourable to every one except the agent
- c. An act is ethical if it produces the best long term consequences when compared with all other available alternatives
- d. Certain acts are right and others are wrong because of their conformity or non-conformity to duty or obligation

**1.10 Teleological theories:**

- a. Put the rightness of an action above its goodness
- b. Consider the consequences of an action as measure of an action's good
- c. Stresses the fidelity of principle and duty and are the most important
- d. Follow rules, laws and regulations

**1.11 Autonomy:**

- a. Relates to the authority for the practice of nursing based on a social contract that acknowledges professional rights, responsibilities as well as as mechanisms of public accountability.
- b. Related to the concept of faithfulness and the practice of keeping promises
- c. Is closely linked to the notion of respect for persons and is an important principle in Western cultures
- d. Is a right that is not recognised by law.

**1.12 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 towards society
- c. The right to discipline, train, admit and dismiss its members for failure to sustain competence or observe the duties and responsibilities
- d. All of the above.

**1.13 Which of the following categories of nurses can be held liable to negligence in supervision?**

- a. Enrolled nurses
- b. Nursing assistants
- c. Nursing students
- d. Registered nurses

**1.14 Professional Commitment in nursing:**

- a. Influences the way that others health care providers and patient relate to the nurse.
- b. Is viewed as more than a mere promises or contract
- c. Implies a life meaningless conformity, a refusal to involve oneself with life's difficulties
- d. Is a motivating force which manifests itself as the desire to do what is right for the patient once his needs are known

**1.15 Sociologists argue that nursing is regarded as semi-profession. These arguments include all of the following EXCEPT**

- a. In nursing there is no clearly defined theory of nursing
- b. Nursing is mainly dependent on the doctor for practice
- c. Only some nurses are educated at University level
- d. The minority of nurses are not self-employed or independent fee for service practitioners

**QUESTIONS 1.16 -**

**Indicate which of the following statements are true or false**

- 1.16 An informed consent may be written or oral, they are both legal
- 1.17 The lack of appropriate nursing care from which harm results unintentionally, can still be negligent if the patient is injured, although the nurse causing injury was careful carrying out the act.
- 1.18 Fidelity is an ethical principle that obliges one to tell the truth and not to lie or deceive others.
- 1.19 Active euthanasia is the withholding or withdrawing of a life sustaining measure in order to allow a person to die.
- 1.20 Utilitarianism an example of a consequential ethical theory.
- 1.21 The philosophy of nursing is concerned with the scientific process of nursing
- 1.22 Teleology attempts not only to determine what is right or wrong but also questions the meaning and justification of ethical statements.

- 1.23 Paternalism is overriding of individual choices or intentional actions in order to provide benefit to that individual.
- 1.24 The Nurses and Midwives Act provides for peer group control in the form of a statutory body.
- 1.25 Utilitarianism 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.
- 1.26 The principle of justice is concerned with respecting individuals as self-determined choosers.
- 1.27 Beneficence is the obligation to do good
- 1.28 Maleficence the duty to cause no harm, both individually and for all.
- 1.29 One of the differences between professional associations and trade unions is that only nurses who are not regarded as part of management are entitled to membership of the trade union.
- 1.30 The role of a nurse in informed consent for surgical interventions or medical treatment comes into play in her capacity as patients' advocate.

**MARKS 30**

## QUESTION 2

**Discuss ethical implications for nursing practice under the following:**

- a. Paternalism [5]
- b. Veracity [5]
- c. Respect [5]
- d. Deontological theories [5]
- e. Competence in nursing [5]

**MARKS 25**

## QUESTION 3

**In nursing human rights form the basis for the determination of moral values. Nurses have the obligation to protect the patient against anyone who disregards his rights.**

- a. **Describe the basic human rights in the health care context under the following:**
  - i. The right to treatment [4]
  - ii. The right to information [4]
  - iii. The right to confidentiality and privacy [4]
- b. **Discuss the rights of a nurse to strike [8]**

**MARKS 20**

**TOTAL MARKS 75**