

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2010

**TITLE : ETHICAL ISSUES, DILEMMAS AND PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE IN MENTAL HEALTH NURSING**

COURSE : NUR 451

DURATION : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
 - 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS**
 - 3. NO PAPER SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO NOR
OUT OF THE EXAMINATION ROOM**
 - 4. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A SEPARATE SHEET
OF PAPER**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED
BY THE INVIGILATOR**

Question 1: Multiple choice questions.

Select the answer that best responds to each of the following questions e.g., 40 =s (1 point each).

1. A branch of study in philosophy concerning how people act toward one another is
 - a) ethics
 - b) morals
 - c) philosophy
 - d) values

2. _____ involve goodness or badness of human behaviour or character
 - a) ethics
 - b) morals
 - c) philosophy
 - d) values

3. Enduring beliefs of what is worthwhile that reflect the value holder's worldview, culture or understanding of the world is
 - a) ethics
 - b) morals
 - c) philosophy
 - d) values

4. Which of the following statements is true with regard to values?
 - a) Values are abstract and difficult to define and communicate
 - b) Values are powerful and drive our choices about what we wish to do and what we would like to have
 - c) Values focus our energies and choices
 - d) All of these

5. Which of the following states the fundamental principle of distributive justice
 - a) from each according to their ability
 - b) to each according to their needs
 - c) individuals similar in all respects relevant to the kind of treatment in question should be treated similarly
 - d) A and B

6. Which of the following is true under the Utilitarian approach to moral evaluation?
 - a) the course of action with the best overall cost-benefit balance is morally best.
 - b) actions whose costs outweigh their benefits are always immoral
 - c) actions whose benefits outweigh their costs are always moral
 - d) both B and C

7. The standards we use to determine right from wrong, or good from bad, in thought and behaviour are known as
 - a) Ethics
 - b) Values
 - c) Attitudes
 - d) Beliefs

8. Which of the following is a principle that frames ethics during communication?
 - a) Listeners in the communication process have ethical responsibilities.
 - b) Speakers in the communication process have ethical responsibilities.
 - c) All parties in the communication process have ethical responsibilities.
 - d) Ethical speakers and listeners possess attitudes that do not pervade their character.

9. Which of the following statements about ethics is true?
 - a) Ethics are intermittent
 - b) Ethics are only necessary when speaking.
 - c) Ethics are a value system that does not pervade our lives
 - d) Ethics are constant

10. Scientific misconduct refers to
 - a) a researcher accidentally misquoting his or her data
 - b) fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or some other deviation from what is commonly accepted by the scientific community
 - c) failure to achieve expected results
 - d) accidental failure to cite a source.

11. Utilitarianism suggests that it is ethical to make decisions based on
 - a) What is best for most people
 - b) Common decency
 - c) Moral values
 - d) What is best for an individual.

12. Distributive justice refers to
 - a) Rewards allocated to those who shout loudest
 - b) Rewards allocated regardless of contribution
 - c) Rewards allocated by level of contribution
 - d) Rewards allocated to those who cannot help themselves

13. Clients receiving psychiatric care have a right to determine their own treatment plan. This right is based on the ethical principle of
 - a) informed consent
 - b) beneficence
 - c) non-maleficence
 - d) autonomy

14. Fidelity is best described by
- the health care provider must be truthful and avoid deception
 - the responsibility of the health care provider is to treat all people in the same fair manner
 - Health care resources must be allocated so that the best is done for a greater number of people
 - The health care provider has an obligation to be faithful to commitments made to self and others.
15. Which set does not represent vital elements of informed consent?
- Capacity to consent; voluntary decision to participate; adequate comprehension of provided information.
 - Ability to withdraw from a drug trial without reprisals; full comprehension of provided information; documentation of informed consent
 - Full disclosure of relevant information; capacity to consent; voluntary decision to participate.
 - Adequate comprehension of provided information; capacity to consent; voluntary decision to withdraw from the drug trial at any stage.
16. Which of the following is not a way to enhance autonomy?
- focus first on general goals not technical options
 - disagreements should initiate a process of mutual exchange
 - the nurse makes the final decision on nursing management
 - recommendations must consider both clinical facts and personal experiences
17. The major conceptual foundation of deontology, a system of ethical thought, is that people have a specific duty to
- Consider the consequences of decisions in relation to others
 - Maximize good and minimize harm within society
 - Do what is right for the individual
 - Bend rules when it will help the patient
18. A treatment approach criticized for being dehumanizing because when done it is irreversible and is often experimental is
- psychotherapy
 - psychopharmacology
 - psychosurgery
 - behaviour control
19. An individual is reflecting ethical thoughts from the school of Utilism when making the statement
- “ Does the decision adhere to the rules of right and wrong?”
 - “The sanctity of life takes precedence over the quality of life”
 - “What is good or right must triumph over what is bad or wrong”

- d) "Will the consequences of this decision cause a burden to society"
20. When assisting patients to make decisions that involve ethical dilemmas, nurses must first
- a) Refrain from imposing their own values on patients
 - b) Clarify their own values in relation to the moral issues
 - c) Understand ethical theories and principles before making decisions
 - d) Elicit the thoughts and feelings of the patient and significant others
21. A client you have been counseling tells you he is going to shoot his wife because of her infidelity. As his counselor
- a) You respect his right to confidentiality and do not tell anyone
 - b) You tell him that in this instance you have to breach confidentiality and inform the police
 - c) You just encourage him not to shoot his wife
 - d) You report to the police and hope he does not find out.
22. You receive a fax from another hospital asking your hospital to release information about a particular patient you attended to 6 months ago.
- a) You fax them all information you can find dating back to that time.
 - b) You throw the fax into the garbage can.
 - c) You fax them back telling them you can not release the information.
 - d) You ask them to have the patient send you a release of information form
23. First generation rights, which governments may not violate, will not include
- a) The right to medical care
 - b) The right to life
 - c) The right to privacy
 - d) The right to human dignity
24. An absolute patient right in health care is
- a) The right to treatment
 - b) The right to know
 - c) The right to refuse receiving treatment
 - d) The right to confidentiality and privacy
25. Special rights of persons with mental retardation will not include
- a) the right to family living
 - b) the right to counseling and safeguards regarding reproduction
 - c) intelligent exposure to life situations involving risk
 - d) protection against the use of drugs and behaviour modification techniques.

Question 2

Nurses in Swaziland have frequently engaged in industrial action (work strikes) to force employers to meet their demands.

- a) What are the rights of nurses regarding work strikes? (10)
- b) As an essential service, what are the nurses obligations to the profession and the patients at times when a strike action is embarked upon? (15)

TOTAL 25

Question 3

Ncedze, a 10-year old, is brought to the OPD by his parents who give a history that he abandoned school, runs away from home, sniffs glue and smokes dagga. They want him admitted because he now exhibits violent behaviour. They request that he be “put on treatment and given counseling” until he improves.

- a) What problems are inherent with the admission and care of Ncedze at the Swaziland National Psychiatric Centre? (5)
- b) Ncedze is likely to receive Psychotherapy and Psychopharmacologic agents as part of his care. Discuss the ethical criticisms of these two methods of treatment, especially for children. (15)
- c) Should family involvement be required, what difficulties may likely arise? (5)

TOTAL 25