

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER JULY 2011

**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

“Informed consent” is considered the cornerstone of modern-day health care practice. Discuss the ethical principles enshrined in obtaining “informed consent” (25)

Question 2

Approaches in the management of psychiatric conditions have received criticism from some ethicists. Highlight some of the criticisms that have been leveled on each of the following:

- a) Care of the mentally retarded. (9)
- b) Child psychiatry (9)
- c) Psychotherapy (7)

TOTAL 25

Question 3

Children in one family whose religious beliefs do not allow taking children to hospital or taking any medication had an outbreak of measles and two of them died from complications. Efforts by nurses in that area to convince the family to bring the children for treatment proved futile. The government ministry responsible for child welfare was alerted and the children were forcefully taken from their parents to the nearest health centre where they were admitted, treated and later discharged.

- a) What ethical issue are inherent in this scenario? (5)
- b) Write a critique of the parents behaviour and that of the government officials who took the children for treatment. (20)

TOTAL 25