

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2011

COURSE NAME: ETHOS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN MIDWIFERY

COURSE CODE: MID 104

INSTRUCTIONS

- ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A
- CHOOSE ANY TWO QUESTIONS ON YOUR CHOICE IN SECTION B
- WRITE ALL RESPONSES IN THE ANSWER BOOKLET PROVIDED

DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO BY THE INVIGILATOR

SECTION A

Question 1

Select the most appropriate from each of the following questions. E.g. 1.1 a

1.1 Which of the following is false about the midwifery scope of practice?

- a. It limits care to low risk women in the childbearing age
- b. It includes detection of complications in the mother and the baby
- c. It emphasises the access of medical care and other appropriate care of mother and baby
- d. All of the above

1.2 Which of the following statements is true about midwifery?

- a. It depends on other health professionals to exist
- b. It fits under the nursing cadre
- c. It is a mixture of medicine and nursing
- d. None of the above

1.3 Which of the following statements is false about cultural safety?

- a. The woman as a client relies on the midwife to make decisions regarding her health care.
- b. The midwife brings his/her own social context and social culture
- c. Both the midwife and client are shaped their wider cultural and social contexts
- d. None of the above

1.4 The leading reason for high maternal mortality rates before the 20th century in the western world was;

- a. hemorrhage
- b. puerperal psychosis
- c. puerperal sepsis
- d. complicated labour requiring caesarean sections

1.5 One of the following led to the abolishing of midwifery care in the mid 19th century?

- a. The introduction of nurses in midwifery practice
- b. High unexplained mortality and morbidity rates
- c. The growth of the medical profession in legitimacy and power
- d. All of the above

1.6 One of the following statements portrays a similarity between cultural safety and midwifery partnership. Which one is it?

- a. Both theories explain and describe living processes that are engaging and challenging.
- b. Both theories have a legal imperative
- c. Both theories emphasise on continuity of caregiver
- d. All of the above

1.7 Assimilation in cultural safety is defined as;

- a. The integration of two different cultures into one new culture

- b. People from different backgrounds coming to see themselves as part of one family
- c. Both a and b
- d. All of the above

1.8 Identify the correct order of phases according to the cultural safety theoretical concept

- a. cultural sensitivity, cultural awareness, cultural safety
- b. cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, cultural safety
- c. cultural safety, cultural sensitivity, cultural awareness
- d. all of the above

1.9 Which of the following statements best define midwifery partnership?

- a. It distinguishes midwifery as a profession
- b. Affords time to the midwife to work with women and their families
- c. It acknowledges that both parties are individuals who make equally important contributions in the midwifery relationship
- d. None of the above

Susan a woman going through normal pregnancy wants to start her antenatal care. Susan loves the idea of being cared for by a midwife, but is a bit apprehensive of not being seen by a medical doctor altogether. Questions 1.10 to 1.12 relate to Susan

1.10 Select the most probable model of maternity care for Susan.

- a. Independent midwifery care
- b. Team midwifery

- c. Obstetric care
- d. Shared care

1.11 From a financial perspective, which pattern of care would most likely suit Susan's needs but remain comparatively economic?

- a. Independent midwifery
- b. Team midwifery
- c. Obstetric care
- d. Shared care

1.12 Which model of maternity care would be most expensive?

- a. Independent midwifery
- b. Team midwifery
- c. Obstetric care
- d. Shared care

Tholakele is an 18 year old school girl seeking abortion services from a clinic where midwife Sibongile offers midwifery services in Swaziland. Tholakele is an orphan and the eldest heading a child-headed household in the community. Questions 1.13 to 1.17 relate to this scenario.

1.13 What is the most important professional consideration that Sibongile should make before she agrees or disagrees to offer abortion services to Tholakele?

- a. That Tholakele is a minor and would benefit from an abortion
- b. The position of the law of the country regarding abortion
- c. That abortion is a sin against God

- d. The benefit of doing the abortion to Tholakele versus the disadvantage of not doing it.
- 1.14 If Sibongile were to decide to dispense abortion services to Tholakele, what would her strong moral defense be in a court of law?
- a. That Tholakele is better off aborting the baby anyway, as she has no means of raising the child
 - b. That offering Tholakele an abortion would be safe as she is likely to do it unsafely should the clinic decline the service
 - c. That giving an abortion is legal in many countries and supported by many women's right's organisations
 - d. None of the above
- 1.15 Sibongile considers declining giving Tholakele the abortion. Which of the following would be Sibongile's best professional course of action?
- a. Refer Tholakele to another clinic that offers abortion and counseling services
 - b. To call the police and alert them of Tholakele's intentions
 - c. Start an abstinence community campaign in Tholakele's school, and use Tholakele as an example
 - d. Reassure Tholakele and encourage her to have the baby and not commit a sin
- 1.16 Assuming that abortion is medically indicated in Tholakele's case, what would Sibongile's best defense be if she decided to decline participation in the abortion?
- a. Sibongile's right to decline giving care to a client with whom she has no health care contract
 - b. Sibongile's professional right of conscience

- c. Sibongile's right to refer clients to other professionals if she feels unable to care for them
- d. Sibongile's professional obligation to dispense emergency care

1.17 From an ethical perspective, what is the most appropriate course of action for Tholakele to take in this situation?

- a. Abort the baby safely in a clinic supervised by a medical team
- b. Give birth to the baby and give it up for adoption
- c. Give birth to the baby and raise it with whatever meager resources are available
- d. None of the above

Lobengula is a severely mentally retarded 25 year old female, who has 3 children aged between 1 and 3 years. Due to her mental incapacitation, Lobengula is unable to care for herself or the children. The fathers of Lobengula's children are unknown to both Lobengula and her family. Lobengula's family approach Eric, the community midwife seeking permanent contraception for Lobengula (sterilization). The following questions relate to these circumstances.

1.18 Identify the most significant ethical concern over this family's decision from the following;

- a. Lobengula might desire to get married and have more children one day
- b. Sterilising Lobengula will permanently deprive her of her reproductive right which is a human right
- c. Lobengula might give birth to retarded children that carry her genes
- d. All of the above

1.19 What are the conflicting facts in this matter that would make deciding on a course of action difficult?

- a. That sterilisation would benefit Lobengula by sparing the trouble of pregnancy after being taken advantage of by men
- b. That sterilisation is inhumane and should not be done on lobengula simply because she is mentally incapable of defending her right to reproduce
- c. That sterilisation of Lobengula would benefit Lobengula's family and the society; as well as benefit Lobengula
- d. a and b

1.20 The family also decides to castrate Lobengula's children to prevent further spread of the gene calling for mental retardation. Which of the following would challenge this decision?

- a. Every child has a right to keep all his body parts that he/ she was born with (no mutilation)
- b. A child has a right to care
- c. A child has a right to reproductive rights
- d. None of the above

Lobesutfu, a lone midwife on duty admits Nancy with bearing down contractions in labour. Lobesutfu happens to know that Nancy is pregnant with Lobesutfu's husband's child, with whom she had an extra-marital affair.

1.21 Form an ethical perspective, Lobesutfu should;

- a. Abandon Nancy
- b. Transfer Nancy on in an ambulance to another birthing facility

- c. Go ahead and help Nancy give birth safely
 - d. Exercise her right not to care for a client with whom she has no midwifery relationship
- 1.22 Lobesutfu discovers that Nancy is HIV positive from Nancy's medical records and Nancy's partner is unaware. As a professional midwife, Lobesutfu should;
- a. Storm the matron's office and demand management to excuse her from duty
 - b. Request that Nancy be transferred to another maternity care facility
 - c. Request that another midwife within the unit, her colleague continue to look after Nancy in order to excuse Lobesutfu
 - d. Stay put and continue to give Nancy midwifery care inspite of how she may be feeling about it
- 1.23 Which of the following ethical issues are the most confronting in Lobesutfu's position?
- a. The client's right to care, beneficence, non-maleficence
 - b. Justice, veracity, fidelity
 - c. Confidentiality, justice, beneficence
 - d. Non-maleficence, the baby's right to health care, confidentiality

Derrick works in a maternity hospital and cares for Jennifer who has given birth to twins who are term and well. The hospital policy demands that all newborns be kept separately in a nursery, under the care of midwives until discharge from the hospital. Jennifer expresses dissatisfaction with this and asks to be allowed to room-in with her babies. The following questions relate to this scenario;

1.24 From a midwifery profession point of view, which of the following should Derrick put first priority on?

- a. The needs of the mother in the spirit of woman-centered care
- b. The policies and protocols of the institution
- c. The needs of the babies before the mother
- d. None of the above

1.25 If Derrick were to decide to honour the wishes of Nancy, which of the following principles would he be in breach of?

- a. The midwifery partnership theory
- b. The right of the mother to care
- c. Following organizational policies whose fulfillment are his primary reason for his employment
- d. None of the above

(Total 25 marks)

SECTION B

Question 2

2.1 Compare and contrast the midwifery, medical, and nursing models in their dispensation of maternity care. **(15 marks)**

2.2 Briefly describe the patterns or models with which maternity care can be dispensed **(10 marks)**

Question 3

3.1 You have been asked to present a paper before parliament that is to assist parliamentarians when deliberating a draft midwives' act in Swaziland. Write this paper and discuss the significance and relevance of legislation in the midwifery profession. **(10 marks)**

3.2 Compare and contrast the functions of the Swaziland Midwives Association from those of the Swaziland Nursing Council. **(15 marks)**

Question 4

Mhlengi is a midwife working in a remote religious rural clinic that strongly disagrees with contraception. This clinic is at least a day's journey away from another nearest health facility. Contraceptive services are therefore not offered in this clinic as a principle. One day, Mhlengi is confronted by Lulu, a 13 year old female incest victim who shows up at the clinic seeking emergency contraception. Mhlengi also happens to belong to the same religious sect as that of the clinic he works in.

4.1 Identify the ethical and professional dilemma that Mhlengi faces in such a situation. **(20 marks)**

4.2 What would be the best course of action in this situation from a midwifery professional perspective? **(5 marks)**