

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2015**

**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 25 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**

Choose the correct answer and indicate your response by writing the letter corresponding to the correct answer next to the appropriate question number e.g. 53=f. (1 point each)

1. The duty to respect privileged information is called
  - a. Privacy
  - b. Justice
  - c. Veracity
  - d. Confidentiality
  
2. External constraints can influence voluntariness in situations related to informed consent. These constraints least likely include
  - a. Significant trauma
  - b. Coercion
  - c. Fraud
  - d. Undue violence
  
3. A client on dialysis informs the nurse that he wants to stop the series of dialysis. The nurse should appropriately do which action in response to the client's decision?
  - a. Inform the client that the doctor must decide what to do
  - b. Tell the client that he must finish his series of renal dialysis
  - c. Respect the client's decision and provide comfort measures
  - d. Leave the client and attend other patients
  
4. Informed consent is a method that promotes
  - a. Non-maleficence
  - b. Autonomy
  - c. Beneficence
  - d. Justice
  
5. Being answerable for one's own action is assuming
  - a. Accountability
  - b. Responsibility
  - c. Non-maleficence
  - d. Veracity
  
6. The execution of duties associated with the nurse's particular role is called
  - a. Accountability
  - b. Responsibility
  - c. Non-maleficence
  - d. Veracity

7. The personal conviction that something is absolutely right or wrong in all situations is called
  - a. Values
  - b. Morals
  - c. Ethics
  - d. Standards of practice
  
8. The principle or standards that influence behavior and decision-making which are based on experience, religion, education and culture is called
  - a. Values
  - b. Morals
  - c. Ethics
  - d. Standards of practice
  
9. The nurse in a unit is caring for several clients. To distribute nursing care the nurse utilized the principle of triage due to limited availability of resources. The nurse is promoting which ethical principle?
  - a. Fidelity
  - b. Veracity
  - c. Justice
  - d. Confidentiality
  
10. Nursing ethics provide the standards for professional behavior and are the study of principles of right and wrong for nurses. This set of standards states the duties and obligations of nurses to
  - a. Clients
  - b. Other health professionals
  - c. Community
  - d. All of these
  
11. Utilitarianism suggests that it is ethical to make decisions based on
  - a. What is best for most people
  - a. Common decency
  - b. Moral values
  - c. What is best for an individual
  
12. A portion of ethics that centres on the extent to which judgements are reasonable or otherwise justifiable is
  - a. Descriptive ethics
  - b. Normative ethics
  - c. Metaethics
  - d. All of these

13. Nurse Zishwili avoids deliberate harm and harm that occurs during the performance of nursing actions. Nurse Zishwili is promoting which ethical principle
  - a. Autonomy
  - b. Nonmaleficence
  - c. Beneficence
  - d. Justice
  
14. Ethics in the nursing profession are very important. The type of ethics that present a factual narration of moral behaviour is called
  - a. Descriptive ethics
  - b. Normative ethics
  - c. Metaethics
  - d. All of these
  
15. To make autonomous decisions and actions, patients must be given enough information. Such information should be
  - a. Have no internal and external influences
  - b. Coerced
  - c. Involuntary
  - d. None of these
  
16. Before nurse Xulu administers a client's medication, he assesses the client's needs for drugs, and follows the "rights" in drug preparation and administration. After Nurse Xulu has given the dose, he evaluates the client's response to the medication given. Nurse Xulu is promoting
  - a. Veracity
  - b. Autonomy
  - c. Responsibility
  - d. Accountability
  
17. According to the ICN Code for Nurses, the fundamental responsibilities of a nurse are the following apart from
  - a. Prevention of illness
  - b. Promotion of health
  - c. Aggravation of suffering
  - d. Restoration of health
  
18. The one that promotes the philosophical and theological study of morality, moral judgements and moral problems is called
  - a. Values
  - b. Ethics
  - c. Morals
  - d. Standards of practice

19. Deciding whether prolonging life in a terminally ill patient or doing euthanasia is an example of what type of ethics
  - a. Metaethics
  - b. Normative ethics
  - c. Descriptive ethics
  - d. All of these
  
20. A nurse's obligation to the client least likely include
  - a. Considers the dignity of clients
  - b. Retains a commitment of welfare to the client
  - c. Works toward securing and maintaining conditions of employment that satisfy the goals of nursing
  - d. Hold confidential all information about a client learned in a health care setting
  
21. A client is advised by the doctor to undergo chemotherapy. An informed consent is not yet signed. The client requests information related to chemotherapy and the drugs that will be given to her. The nurse explains the side effects of the medications including the length of treatment and prognosis of the disease. The nurse answers all questions by the client honestly even though the client may choose not to undergo chemotherapy. The nurse in this situation is promoting
  - a. Confidentiality
  - b. Fidelity
  - c. Justice
  - d. Veracity
  
22. Free consent is willingness to participate in situations related to informed consent. There are constraints related to voluntariness which are internal and external. Internal constraints include
  - a. Significant trauma
  - b. Coercion
  - c. Undue violence
  - d. Fraud
  
23. Professional accountability serves the following purpose except
  - a. To provide a basis for ethical decision
  - b. To respect the decision of the client
  - c. To maintain standards of health
  - d. To evaluate new professional practices and reassess existing ones
  
24. A wrong dose of a drug is administered by a nurse. The nurse is responsible to whom?
  - a. Client
  - b. Physician who ordered the drug
  - c. Society
  - d. All of these

25. A Nurses' code is a set of ethical principles generally accepted by members of the profession. The standard or principle that a nurse must observe in the practice should promote which duty?
- Plays a major role in determining the implementation desirable standards of nursing practice
  - Active in developing a core of professional knowledge
  - Acts through the professional organization and participates in establishing and maintaining equitable social and economic working conditions in nursing
  - Uses judgment in relation to individual competence when accepting and delegating responsibilities

**Question 2**

As a mental health nurse you are expected to behave professionally in line with the code of conduct. Briefly outline the professional behavioural expectations under the following:

- Safe, competent and ethical practice to ensure protection of the public. (7)
- Respect the inherent worth, right of choice and dignity of persons. (8)
- Health, mental health and well-being. (4)
- Quality practice. (6)

**TOTAL = 25**

**Question 3**

Case: Motsa, a 15 year old boy, was admitted to hospital with a severe asthma attack. During his stay on another ward, blood samples were routinely taken and they identified Motsa was suffering with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, a condition with good prospects of recovery if treated correctly. The hospital had clear guidelines for supporting patients and their parents/carers at each stage of the patient's illness which includes diagnosis. These guidelines were adhered to throughout Motsa's treatment and care. Motsa's parents were informed of the diagnosis and they were devastated. They requested their son not be told about the diagnosis, as they did not want him to know, as they thought he would not be able to cope and they believed 'Allah' would decide his fate.

How would you, as a nurse, handle the case? (25)

**TOTAL = 25**