

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**FINAL EXAMINATION MAY 2006**

- COURSE TITLE : NURSING ETHICS AND  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**
- COURSE CODE : NUR 204**
- TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS**
- TOTAL MARKS : 100**
- INSTRUCTIONS : 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25  
MARKS**
- 3. ONE MARK ALLOCATED FOR  
EACH CORRECT FACT  
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.**

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GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR***

## QUESTION 1

For each of the following statements select the most appropriate answer e.g. 1 d. or 2 b.

1. Which of the following categories of nurses can be held liable for negligence in supervision?
  - a) Enrolled Nurses.
  - b) Nursing Assistants.
  - c) Nursing Students.
  - d) Registered Nurses.
  
2. Indicate which of the following statements is true
  - a) A profession lacks cohesion and unity of purpose if members do not have a common bond of professionalism and loyalty to the profession.
  - b) Professional practice codes specify overall responsibility, accountability and nursing function.
  - c) Freedom of choice in nursing is only concerned with the freedom to choose an area of practice.
  - d) The reality of nursing practice today is all professional nurses meet the legal and ethical criteria for professional practice.
  
3. Which of the following statements is false about professional discipline in nursing.
  - a) At the conclusion of a disciplinary inquiry (regardless of whether the person is guilty or not guilty) the announcement about the outcome is made in an open meeting.
  - b) Penalties imposed on student nurses may include termination of the period of training.
  - c) A nurse, whose name has been removed from the roll or register, may never return to nursing.
  - d) Names of persons suspended or removed from practice are published.
  
4. Which of the following principles are followed in a disciplinary inquiry
  - i) Voluntary confessions are not considered.
  - ii) The nursing council is lawfully authorised to appoint a legal assessor if necessary.
  - iii) Nurses involved in disciplinary trials may obtain legal advice.
  - iv) The accused may be compelled to testify.
  - v) Only relevant evidence is included.
  - a) i, ii, iii
  - b) ii, iii, v.
  - c) iii, iv, v.
  - d) I, ii, iii, iv
  - e) ii, iv, v

5. The employer has certain obligation towards the nurse employee. These include all of the following **except**

- a) Establishing an environment in which the nurse can practice ethically and professionally.
- b) Establishing favourable working conditions.
- c) Providing clear policy statements.
- d) Providing continuing education.

6. Descriptive ethics ---

- a) Predicts what is right or wrong.
- b) Is a formal division of ethics.
- c) Is a factual explanation in behaviour or moral beliefs.
- d) Is not a form of values clarification.

7. Normative ethics ----

- a) Raises questions about what is good, what is right and how to decide.
- b) Considers that connection between human conduct and morality.
- c) Considers what someone thinks is right.
- d) Is the domain of psychologists.

8. Sociologists argue that nursing is regarded as a semi-profession. These arguments include all the following except

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

9. Why would an enrolled nurse not be held liable for negligence in supervision?

- a) Because enrolled nurses are careful.
- b) Because enrolled nurses are not competent to supervise other.
- c) Because enrolled nurses are not legally or professionally responsible for supervising others.

10. Meta-Ethics ---

- a) Is concerned with what we think is right.
- b) Is the study of how people behave.
- c) Describes ethical value.
- d) Is domain of the professional ethicists who seek to know the meaning of words.

For question 11 – 14 indicate which of the following statements is true or false.

11. The term ethics has several meanings. It can also refer to etiquette in the nursing profession.
12. The Nurses and Midwives Act provides for peer group control in the form of a statutory body.
13. The philosophy of nursing is concerned with the scientific process of nursing.
14. Professional commitment is viewed as a resolution which will not be influenced by personal values of the nurse.

**For questions 15 – 25 match the following theories and values in column A with their meaning in column B.**

<b>COLUMN A</b>	<b>COLUMN B</b>
15. Deontology	a) Claims that an action is right if it tends to produce the greatest balance of value over disvalue.
16. Teleology	b) Attempts not only to determine what is right or wrong but also questions of the meaning and justification of ethical statements.
17. Utilitarianism	c) Considers that it is the good intention to do one's moral duty which determines whether an action is good.
18. Paternalism	d) Maintain that the rightness or wrongness of actions is determined solely by the value or consequences these actions produce.
19. Autonomy	e) Overriding of individual choices or intentional actions in order to provide benefit to that individual.
20. Beneficence	f) 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.
21. Justice	g) Concerned with respecting individuals as self-determined choosers.
22. Nonmaleficence	h) Concerned about how benefits and burdens ought to be justly distributed.
23. Fidelity	I) Obligation to do no harm.
24. Justice	j) The obligation to do good.

- |                        |                                                        |                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 25. Ethical principles | k) Obligation to tell the truth.                       |                 |
|                        | l) Obligation to remain faithful to one's commitments. |                 |
|                        | <b>Total</b>                                           | <b>25 marks</b> |

### QUESTION 2

- |                                                                                                                                                                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| a) Describe the purposes that are served by professional codes of conduct.                                                                                                         | 5 marks         |
| b) A nurse has an obligation to protect the patient against anyone who disregards his rights. Discuss basic human (patient) rights in the health care contest under the following: |                 |
| i) The right to treatment.                                                                                                                                                         | 4 marks         |
| ii) The right to know.                                                                                                                                                             | 4 marks         |
| iii) The right to confidentiality and privacy                                                                                                                                      | 4 marks.        |
| c) Analyse the rights of nurses to strike.                                                                                                                                         | 8 marks         |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>25 marks</b> |

### QUESTION 3

- |                                                                                                                                |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| a) Give a full explanation of the dependent, independent and interdependent functions of a nurse.                              | 9 marks         |
| b) Distinguish between the roles and responsibilities of professional nursing organisations and professional regulatory bodies | 10 marks        |
| c) The nurse is a patient advocate. Explain.                                                                                   | 6 marks         |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>25 marks</b> |

### QUESTION 4

#### Case Study

**Mary, a 16 year old has been referred to the nurse by the orthopaedic clinic. At her 3-month check-up for a difficult ankle fracture, it is discovered that Mary's haemoglobin was below normal. Since the fracture had healed without complications and would require no further follow-up. The fracture clinic nurse referred Mary and her mother to nurse Dlamini for evaluation of the low haemoglobin and nutritional counselling. During the counselling session, Mary confided to nurse Dlamini that she is 6 weeks pregnant. She also told nurse Dlamini that she is scheduled to have an abortion during the following week and did not want her mother to know (abortion is legal in this country).**

**After the session, the nurse invited Mary's mother into her office to explain the diet and follow-up planned for the low haemoglobin. The mother expressed concern about her daughter – she seemed so tired lately, has had nausea and has not been eating well, and so on. Were these symptoms caused by the low haemoglobin, the nurse faces a dilemma.**

- a) Discuss the significance of the values and conflicts for the parties involved. 10 marks
- b) Explain what should be done. 10 marks
- c) Explain the concept "nursing is caring" 5 marks

**Total 25 marks**