

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL NURSING
EXAMINATION PAPER APRIL/MAY 2006**

Course code	NUR 506
Course title	Ethos and professional practice
Duration	Two (2) hours
Total marks	80

Instructions:

- 1. Answer ALL four questions.**
- 2. Read all questions carefully and thoughtfully.**
- 3. Handwriting must be legible.**
- 4. Figures in brackets represent the number of marks allocated per question or a part thereof.**

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Question 1

Gogo (**grandmother**) B is 70 years old and lives with her 17-year-old grand daughter, Khanyisile, who has borderline mental retardation. Because mainstream education ('normal' schools) excludes persons with Khanyisile's condition she only did grade one, which she failed. The school would not let her continue and therefore she spends all her time at home. Khanyisile is capable of carrying out simple tasks such as sweeping the yard, fetching water from the river, gathering fire wood and running small errands for her grandmother. She also is capable of performing her own personal hygiene. However, Khanyisile needs to be reminded constantly when carrying out these simple chores and tasks. One day, during a home visit to this family, Gogo says to the nurse, "I am pleading with you nurse to please operate on Khanyisile so that she will not bring forth any children into this world. My grand daughter needs a lot of attention. I don't think that if she got a child now, I would be able to cope with two children (namely Khanyisile and baby) ... not at my age!"

1.1 Is it possible to implement Gogo's request? (1) Motivate your answer. (2) [3]

1.2 Describe any four rights that re applicable to persons with mental retardation. (8)

1.3 Describes how the works of Rawls would be applicable in this situation? (3)

1.4 Discuss any two ways nurses can play an advocacy role to this Family in trying to improve their situation. (6)

[20 points]

Question 2

Since the beginning of 2000, developing countries have been experiencing shortages of nurses in their health care systems, Swaziland inclusive. The majority of these nurses emigrate to industrialised countries. Although not a routine to explore the reasons

for resigning, sporadic informal exit interviews have indicated a variety of reasons.

2.1 Describe any five reasons that may have prompted some Swazi nurses to resign from practice and emigrate. (10)

2.2 Is such action, namely resigning from work, allowed in nursing?

(1) Motivate your answer (2) [3]

2.3 Describe any six rights that nurses possess in general. (12)

[25 points]

Question 3

Mr Z is 63 years old and married to three wives. He has been admitted into the male medical ward with urinary tract problems.

In 2004, Mr Z was admitted into hospital for some acute unknown illness. The doctor did an HIV test and he tested positive. His CD4 count was only 140 and he was commenced on antiretroviral drugs (ARVs). Mr Z requested from the doctor that his diagnosis of HIV positive and suffering from AIDS, be kept a secret from all his wives. Therefore, to this day, all three wives do not know about it and yet they take turns to care for him while admitted and will also continue to do after discharge from hospital. The doctor has also requested that the nurses honour Mr Z's request.

3.1 Should the nurses honour the Mr Z's request? (1) Motivate your answer (1) [2]

3.3 Discuss any four ethical/moral principles that are implicated in this case/situation. (12)

3.3 Define the term obligation. (2)

3.4 Identify any four persons to whom the nurses have an obligation in this situation. (4)

[20 points]

Question 4

Scenario - Emergency Room in Hospital X

At 9.30 am, a 25 year old man was brought in by ambulance into the emergency room following gunshot wounds on his chest. The police

who were trying to apprehend him for hijacking a stolen car wounded him. Since all warning shots that were fired into the air were ignored, the police opened fire directly at him. The young man is in a critical condition. His vital signs are: B/P = 80/? 40 mmHg; P = 122 beats per minute, rapid and feeble; T = 37°C and R = 26 beats per minutes, rapid and shallow He is conscious but in severe pain, pale from loss of blood and has severe dyspnoea because of suspected fractured ribs. The doctor saw and examined him, and recommended that he be transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU) for close monitoring with a possibility of connecting him to a ventilator to synchronize his breathing.

At 9.40 am, a 60 year-old-well known priest was rushed into the emergency room in a state of unconsciousness. He has a depressed fracture on the left side of his skull. His vital signs are B/P = 160/100 mm Hg; P = 130 beats per minute; R = 8 breadths per minute; and T = 36°C. His breathing is very quiet. The priest was attacked by some youths while visiting with families in a neighbouring high-density area, The doctor saw the priest and also recommended that he be admitted into ICU for close monitoring and stabilisation on the ventilator.

In the meantime, the situation in ICU, which is a four-bedded unit, is such that currently, there is only one free bed. Clients who are not yet ready for transfer to the general wards occupy the other three beds.

4.1 Define the term dilemma. (2)

4.2 Describe any three ethical/moral issues that are implicated in this situation. (6)

4.3 Identify any three factors that need to be taken into consideration in trying to establish which client to admit first in ICU.

4.4 Briefly outline the role of an ethical committee. (4)

[15 points]