

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
FINAL EXAMINATION**

**DECEMBER 2015**

**COURSE TITLE: ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE  
AND THE LAW**

**COURSE CODE: GNS 209**

**TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS**

**TOTAL MARKS: 75**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. PLEASE READ QUESTIONS CAREFULLY**
- 2. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
- 3. HAND IN THE SCRIPT AND QUESTION PAPER**

**MARK ALLOCATION: 1 MARK per FACT/CORRECT PHRASE.**

***PLEASE DO NOT OPEN QUESTION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.***

## QUESTION 1

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

**INSTRUCTION: CHOOSE THE MOST APPROPRIATE ANSWER e.g. 3.1 B**

**1.1** A client has recently been told he has terminal cancer. As the nurse enters the room, he yells, "My eggs are cold, and I'm tired of having my sleep interrupted by noisy nurses!" The nurse may interpret the client's behaviour as:

- A. An expression of the anger stage of dying
- B. An expression of disenfranchised grief
- C. The result of maturational loss
- D. The result of previous losses

**1.2** When caring for a terminally ill client, it is important for the nurse to maintain the client's dignity. This can be facilitated by:

- A. Spending time to let clients share their life experiences
- B. Decreasing emphasis on attending to the clients' appearance because it only increases their fatigue
- C. Making decisions for clients so they do not have to make them
- D. Placing the client in a private room to provide privacy at all times

**1.3** When signing a form as a witness, your signature shows that the client:

- A. Is fully informed and is aware of all consequences
- B. Was awake and fully alert and not medicated with narcotics
- C. Was free to sign without pressure
- D. Understands the language of the form

**1.4** A health care issue often becomes an ethical dilemma because:

- A. A clients legal rights coexist with a health professionals obligation
- B. Decisions must be made quickly, often under stressful conditions
- C. Decisions must be made based on value systems
- D. The choices involved do not appear to be clearly right or wrong

**1.5** In the United States, access to health care usually depends on a client's ability to pay for health care, either through insurance or by paying cash. The client the nurse is caring for needs a liver transplant to survive. This client has been out of work for several months and does not have insurance or enough cash. A discussion about the ethics of this situation would involve predominately the principle of:

- A. Accountability, because you as the nurse are accountable for the well-being of this client.
- B. Respect of autonomy, because this client's autonomy will be violated if he does not receive the liver transplant.
- C. Ethics of care, because the caring thing that a nurse could provide this patient is resources for a liver transplant.
- D. Justice, because the first and greatest question in this situation is how to determine the just distribution of resources.

**1.6.** Nurses are bound by a variety of laws. Which of the following descriptions of types of law is correct?

- A. Statutory law is created by elected legislatures, such as the state legislature that defines the Nurse Practice Act (NPA).
- B. Regulatory law provides for prevention of harm to the public and punishment when those laws are broken.
- C. Common law protects the rights of the individual within society to fair and equal treatment.
- D. Criminal law creates boards that pass rules and regulations to control society.

**1.7.** The nurse is working with parents of a seriously ill newborn. Surgery has been proposed for the infant, but the chances of success are unclear. In helping the parents resolve this ethical conflict, the nurse knows that the first step is

- A. Exploring reasonable courses of action
- B. Collecting all available information about the situation
- C. Clarifying values related to the cause of the dilemma.
- D. Identifying people who can solve the difficulty

**1.8.** Nurses agree to be advocates for their patients. Practice of advocacy calls for the nurse to:

- A. Seek out the nursing supervisor in conflicting situations
- B. Work to understand the law as it applies to the client's clinical condition.
- C. Assess the client's point of view and prepare to articulate this point of view.
- D. Document all clinical changes in the medical record in a timely manner.

1.9 Which statement would best explain the role of the nurse when planning care for a culturally diverse population? The nurse will plan care to:(check all that apply)

- A. Include care that is culturally congruent with the staff from predetermined criteria
- B. Focus only on the needs of the client, ignoring the nurse's beliefs and practices
- C. Blend the values of the nurse that are for the good of the client and minimize the client's individual values and beliefs during care
- D. Provide care while aware of one's own bias, focusing on the client's individual needs rather than the staff's practices

1.10 A client who had a "Do Not Resuscitate" order passed away. After verifying there is no pulse or respirations, the nurse should next:

- A. Have family members say goodbye to the deceased.
- B. Call the transplant team to retrieve vital organs.
- C. Remove all tubes and equipment (unless organ donation is to take place), clean the body, and position it appropriately.
- D. Call the funeral director to come and get the body

**TOTAL 10 MARKS**

## **QUESTION 2**

2.1 Describe the characteristics of a profession (20 Marks)

2.2 Explain the following terms:

2.1.1 Ethics (2.5 marks)

2.1.2 Morals (2.5 marks)

**TOTAL 25 MARKS**

## **QUESTION 3**

3.1 Discuss the different forms of accountability (20 Marks)

3.2 Explain the difference between the following kinds of witnesses usually involved in the trial process:

3.2.1 Lay witness (3 marks)

3.2.2 Expert witness (2 marks)

**TOTAL = 25 MARKS**

**QUESTION 4**

4.1 Discuss the three (3) categories/perspectives in the study of ethics. (15 marks)

**(TOTAL 15 Marks)**

**TOTAL= 75 MARKS**