



**FINAL EXAMINATION**

**DECEMBER 2017**

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

**COURSE CODE: NUR 506**

**TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS**

**TOTAL MARKS: 75**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. PLEASE READ QUESTIONS CAREFULLY**
- 2. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**

**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 co-exist 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. All of the above

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 .
- 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

1.11 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ form the basis of the nurse-patient relationship

- A. Advocacy and Autonomy
- B. Autonomy and Veracity
- C. Veracity and Fidelity
- D. Autonomy and Beneficence

1.12 A norm is \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Another word for moral belief
- B. A standard behaviour that is representative of a particular group of people
- C. A basic component of the way of life in a country
- D. None of the above

1.13 This type of Law is based on principles rather than rules

- A. Judicial law
- B. Administrative law
- C. Common Law
- D. Statutory law

1.14 Professional Ethics are composed of the following elements, **EXCEPT**:

- A. Practice guidelines
- B. Practice standards
- C. Professional Code of Ethics
- D. Purpose of the Nursing Profession

1.15 The principle of Autonomy requires that:

- A. The nurse has more independence than the patient
- B. The independence of both the nurse and patient are at the same level
- C. Adequate information is given to patients to facilitate proper decision making
- D. The nurse should not attempt to persuade the patient who is refusing treatment

1.16 The legal maxim *Res Ipsa Loquitur* means

- A. The healthcare worker was obviously negligent
- B. The court has no jurisdiction over the matter
- C. The facts speak for themselves
- D. The patient sometimes contributes to injury

1.17 Normative ethics

- A. Raises the question of what is right or what ought to be done in a situation that calls for a moral decision
- B. Is the use of ethical theory and analysis to examine moral problems
- C. Studies the language, concepts, and methods used in ethics
- D. Is more focused on values of individuals

1.18 The difference between a plaintiff and a defendant is that:

- A. A plaintiff is usually less negligent whereas a defendant is more negligent in a case
- B. A plaintiff claims damages while a defendant claims fines
- C. A plaintiff institutes a lawsuit while a defendant is the one who is sued
- D. A plaintiff is the one who is sued whereas a defendant is the one who sues

1.19 During an Ethics class discussion, a student nurse asks his peers, "What do we mean when we say abortion is wrong?" This question is an example of

- A. Deontology
- B. Meta-ethics
- C. Descriptive ethics
- D. Teleology

1.20 *Crimen injuria* in Nursing refers to

- A. Criminal injuries inflicted by nurses on patients
- B. Lack of knowledge on legal matters among nurses
- C. Verbal or written statements by nurses which harm a person's reputation
- D. Another name for negligence in Nursing

**STATE WETHER THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE OR FALSE**

- 1.21 The altruistic nurse is more concerned about self interest.
- 1.22 The sanctity of life principle holds that life has value and must be preserved by all.
- 1.23 Institutional Ethics Committees assist in ethical decision making in the hospital
- 1.24 Nursing as a profession is not necessarily based on caring values, but on treatment of ailments.
- 1.25 Compassion can be easily acquired by skills and techniques, and is not merely more than sympathy and emotional attachment. **(25 MARKS)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 2**

2.1 Discuss **ethical implications** for nursing practice under the following concepts:

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| a. Meta-ethics    | [3 marks] |
| b. Deontology     | [3 marks] |
| c. Utilitarianism | [3 marks] |

2.2 Discuss vicarious liability in Nursing. **[4 marks]**

2.3 State two (2) purposes of the Swaziland Nurses Professional Code of Ethics **[2 marks]**

2.4 Case Study

Sibusiso is brought into the Casualty department of the hospital after being involved in a Road Traffic Accident (RTA) a few minutes ago. He is unconscious due to profuse bleeding from an open fracture on the left lower leg. Blood transfusion is immediately commenced on arrival and he is immediately transferred to the operating theatre for Open Reduction Internal Fixation (ORIF) of the fracture. However, the surgeons in the operating room say they had a busy day and are tired. Secondly, they say the instruments needed for the procedure are yet to be sterilized. As a result, they communicate that they need to rest for at least an hour before they can attend to Sibusiso. They argue that the units of blood he is receiving will keep him stable for the next hour. In addition to that, they order a litre of Sodium Chloride 0.9% to be run concurrently with the units of blood.

You are one of the nurses on duty in the casualty department. Part of the items that were brought with the patient is his antiretroviral drugs and Multi-Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB) drugs together with his treatment cards. You take the drugs and cards to the other staff members (including those in the theatre) to inform them about Sibusiso's conditions.

What are the **two ethical issues** and **three ethical principles** that are prominent in this scenario? Justify your responses. [10 marks]

**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)

**25 MARKS**

**TOTAL= 75 MARKS**