

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND



FINAL EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 2015

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK I

**TITLE OF PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IN
SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE**
COURSE NUMBER : SWK 231
TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. This paper consists of 2 sections**
- 2. Answer ALL questions in section A**
- 3. Answer ANY 2 questions in section B**
- 4. Write ALL answers in your answer book**
- 5. This paper has 10 pages**

**This paper should not be opened until permission has been given by the
invigilator.**

SECTION A

Question One *COMPULSORY*

1. The NASW Code of Ethics provides answers to all social work ethical dilemmas

Yes/ No

2. There is one right answer for ethical dilemmas in social work.

Yes/ No

3. Which of the following statement is true?

A. Ethical dilemmas are easily resolved.

B. Social workers usually agree on their resolution

C. A conflict in values may lead to an ethical dilemma.

D. An understanding of one's values is not necessary for ethical decision making.

4. Most social workers resolve ethical dilemmas quickly.

Yes/No

5. Ethical decision making

A. Should involve the Code of Ethics

B. Consideration of values

C. Attention to the most vulnerable

D. All of the above

6. The current Code of Ethics states that confidentiality should be protected except for compelling professional reasons.

True or False

7. The two principal philosophical principles for resolving ethical dilemmas are

A. Right and Wrong

B. Beneficence and Malfeasance

C. Beneficence and Non-malfeasance

D Beneficence and Wrong

8. Deontological thinkers favour

A. Absolute principles

B. Consequential arguments

C. Beneficence

D. Non-malfeasance

9. A person who always thinks in terms of consequences is using a _____ approach.

A. Deontological

B. Absolutist

C. Rule based

D. Teleological

0. Social workers usually use a combination of deontological and teleological approaches in resolving ethical dilemmas.

True or False

11. The Code of Ethics provides absolute answers to ethical dilemmas.
True False
12. Assessing one's values is _____ in ethical decision making.
A. A final step
B. Of minimal importance
C. The most important
D. A first step
13. Which of the following statements is false?
A. One should mainly consider relevant laws in ethical decision making.
B. The NASW Code of Ethics, laws, and regulations should be part of ethical decision making.
C. Laws and the NASW Code of Ethics may conflict.
D. One should consider the NASW Code of Ethics in ethical decision making.
14. Which of these situations constitutes an ethical dilemma?
A. A client shares with you that he is HIV positive but does not want you to tell his wife
B. A child very much wants to return to live with his birth mother, but you know there has been a history of drug abuse
C. A managed care company calls and insists that you fax a client's record immediately.
D. All of the above.
15. What is the main advantage of developing different scenarios in the process of resolving ethical dilemmas?
A. It will provide answers to ethical dilemmas
B. It makes ethical decision making more interesting.
C. It helps the social worker anticipate different consequences.
D. It speeds up ethical decision making.
16. Why would a social worker want to identify who is the most vulnerable client?
A. Social work has a professional commitment to the most vulnerable.
B. It is required by law.
C. The Code of Ethics makes it mandatory to do this.
D. It is part of a psycho social assessment
17. Most social workers use a lengthy process of ethical decision making.
True False
18. Which of the following can a social worker consult with in making an ethical decision?
A. Supervisor
B. Psychologist
C. Social Work Colleague
D. Any of the above
19. In terms of ethical decision-making which of those listed below should the social worker consult with first?
A. Supervisor
B Psychologist

- C. Social Work Colleague
- D. Administrator

20. The following statement about ethical decision-making is true:

- A. A social worker should consult a professional as a first step in ethical decision making..
- B. Hypothesizing only about negative consequences is important
- C. Consideration of values is not important in ethical decision making
- D. The ETHIC model of decision making can be helpful in resolving ethical dilemmas.

21. Ethical issues have not changed in the last thirty years.

True/ False

22. The following technological advances present ethical challenges:

- A. Case recording on computers
- B. Faxed case reports
- C. On line therapy
- D. All of the above

23. Which of the following statement about bioethics is true?

- A. Euthanasia is the only ethical concern.
- B. Organ transplants do not present ethical dilemmas
- C. Self determination is a key ethical concern in end of life decisions.
- D. "Slippery slope" refers to a change in hospital locations.

24. Child welfare

- A. has the same ethical concerns as always.
- B. experts insist that adoptive records be sealed.
- C. presents ethical dilemmas about who is the client
- D. favours the rights of the birth parent

25. Ethical dilemmas can occur in the following interdisciplinary settings:

- A. Hospitals
- B. Child welfare agencies
- C. Schools
- D. All of the above

26. Ways of safeguarding confidentiality have changed over the years.

True False

27. A major ethical concern in regard to online counselling is

- A. Clients will not pay for services.
- B. State credentials of therapist may not be available.
- C. Sessions will be shorter.
- D. Disabled people will not have access.

28. Which issue presents new ethical challenges for the social worker?

- A. People live longer.
- B. New born babies have lower birth weight.
- C. There is a limited supply of vital organs for transplants.
- D. All of the above

29. Which statement is correct?

- A. It is easy to provide cultural competent services.
- B. Social work services must be provided in the language of the client.
- C. Clients must know in great detail cultural characteristics of their clients.
- D. Social workers should strive to know about their clients' cultures.

30. Ethical challenges in terms of cultural diversity occur in the following areas:

- A. Child welfare
- B. Mental health
- C. Health care
- D. All of the above

31. Which statement best describes how social workers should handle confidentiality:

- A. Confidentiality is impossible in modern times.
- B. The safety and security of the client can affect confidentiality decisions.
- C. The main ethical problem with diagnostic assessment is confidentiality.
- D. Social workers should not provide on line therapy.

32. Interdisciplinary consultation can threaten confidentiality.

True False

33. Social workers

- A. are more concerned about hard data than doctors
- B. share the same concept of client as lawyers do.
- C. often have a different concept of client than lawyers.
- D. may not be able to work collaboratively with other disciplines

34. The most challenging issue in terms of cultural diversity is:

- A. Deciding when to accept cultural practices that are very different.
- B. Attending agency cultural diversity sessions.
- C. Working to assimilate culturally diverse clients.
- D. Maintaining a cultural melting pot

35. As the field of ethics is always changing, social workers can best

- A. Study ethics in school
- B. Consult agency doctrines
- C. Take continuing education on ethics
- D. Use their own judgment

36. The NASW Code of Ethics

- A. was first developed over 100 years ago when the profession developed.
- B. has remained relatively unchanged since the beginning
- C. applies to all professionals
- D. originally had only 14 principles.

37. The reason(s) why professional organizations have Codes of Ethics are

- A. Help practitioners resolve ethical dilemmas
- B. Protect the public from incompetent practitioners
- C. Provide self regulation of members

D. All of the above

38. The NASW Code of Ethics began to resemble the current Code in

- A. 1902
- B. 1955
- C. 1979
- D. 1996

39. The following provisions were first added in 1993

- A. informed consent and confidentiality
- B. dual relationships and impaired colleagues
- C. bartering and dual relationships
- D. technology and group work

40. The following issue has the most provisions in the current Code

- A. Self-determination
- B. Cultural competency
- C. Research
- D. Confidentiality

41. An ethical concern about managed care is

- A. Limits to service
- B. Confidentiality
- C. Reliance on technology
- D. All of the above

Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Social workers do not know how to use DSMIV
- B. Social workers should never use DSMIV
- C. Social workers always use DSMIV accurately
- D. Social workers may over diagnose or under diagnose.

43. Technology may pose a threat to maintaining confidentiality

True False

44. Confidentiality should be violated when

- A. A client threatens to kill herself
- B. A client threatens to kill herself
- C. A client speaks of abusing her child
- D. All of the above

45. Suicidal risk

- A. Is easy for the clinician to assess
- B. Is not covered in the NASW Code of Ethics
- C. Overrides confidentiality
- D. Is related to limitation in service

46. In a managed care environment

- A. Fees are higher
- B. Confidentiality may be compromise
- C. Visits are restricted to six sessions
- D. Clinician can make all treatment decisions.

47. Technology

- A. Provides new challenges in protecting confidentiality**
- B. Is incompatible with ethical practice**
- C. Is not an issue for a direct service clinician**
- D. Refers mainly to computers**

48. It is easy for the skilled clinician to assess homicidal risk.

True False

49 The Tarasoff decision

- A. Refers to privileged communication**
- B. Has the same effect in all states**
- C. Established a precedent in duty to warn**
- D. Upholds confidentiality**

50. In working with a client with suicidal or homicidal risk the first thing a social worker should do is

- A. Refer to the Tarasoff Decision**
- B. Make a careful assessment**
- C. Call the police**
- D. Refer to one's supervisor**

51. In applying the Tarasoff decision in work with clients social workers should

- A. Call the client's relatives**
- B. Find out state laws and interpretations of the Tarasoff decision**
- C. Disregard the Tarasoff decision unless one lives in California**
- D. Refer to another social worker**

52. Privileged communication refers to an ethical principle.

True False

53. Privileged communication originally applied only to

- A. Clergy person and parishioner**
- B. Husband and wife**
- C. Lawyer and client**
- D. All of the above**

54. The Supreme Court Decision around privileged communication

- A. Did not apply to social workers**
- B. Acknowledged privileged communication in only a few instances**
- C. Recognized as privileged the communication between social worker and clients**
- D. Supported privileged communication in law suits regarding social workers**

55. All of the following circumstances can negate privileged communication except for:

- A. The client is dangerous to himself and others**
- B. The judge rules that the social worker's testimony is essential to the case**
- C. There is suspicion of child abuse or neglect.**
- D. The social worker does not like to appear in court.**

56. The Code of Ethics has always focused on impaired colleagues and dual relationships.

True/ False

57. Which statement about impaired colleagues is correct?

- A. Impairment only refers to alcohol abuse.
- B. Social workers should not talk to colleagues about a substance abuse problem.
- C. Social workers should first talk to a colleague about a substance abuse problem.
- D. NASW should never be contacted about a substance abuse problem.

58. Some of the signs of impairment might be:

- A. Monday absenteeism.
- B. Irritability.
- C. Smell of alcohol.
- D. All of the above.

59. Social workers never have problems with both impairment and dual relationships.

True False

60. Dual relationships refer only to sexual contact.

True / False

61. Substance abuse in a social worker can be an agency secret.

True / False

62. Which statement is true about impaired colleagues?

- A. Denial is not often a first response to confrontation about a substance abuse problem.
- B. Social workers should go to employers after talking to a colleague if there is no action taken.
- C. Licensing agencies should not be involved with impaired colleagues.
- D. Social workers should call NASW first.

63. Dual relationships refers to

- A. Sexual relationships.
- B. Business relationships.
- C. Social relationships.
- D. All of the above.

64. There is less controversy about the following ethical principle:

- A. Social workers should avoid sexual relationships with current clients.
- B. Social workers should not engage in dual relationships with former clients
- C. Social workers should not have a social relationship with current clients.
- D. Social workers should avoid sexual relationships with former clients.

65. In assessing the possibility of a dual relationship with a former client the social worker should look at

- A. The length of time that has elapsed since the social work relationship.
- B. The type of social work relationship.
- C. The diagnosis of the client.
- D. All of the above.

66. Social workers should be sensitive to cultural differences in considering dual relationships.

True /False

67. A key issue to consider in dual relationships is

- A. If social worker wants it.
- B. If client requests it.
- C. Risk of exploitation and harm to client.
- D. Degree it will help client.

68. The following group of social workers have been particularly concerned about dual relationships:

- A. School social workers
- B. Hospital social workers
- C. Rural social workers
- D. Substance abuse social workers

69. The main argument that has been made in support of dual relationships with previous clients is:

- A. A client is always more vulnerable.
- B. Clients can grow and change
- C. There is continued risk of exploitation
- D. Dual relationships can help former clients.

70. Dual relationships can be a problem area in supervision.

True / False

SECTION B

QUESTION TWO

Social workers are guided by the values, standards and principles in the code of ethics. Critically discuss this statement.

QUESTION THREE

Case: Adoptive children

The State has a registry for natural parents and adoptive children. A natural mother, for instance, may consent to have information about her given to the child she gave up for adoption if the child seeks it, or she may file a denial at the registry, refusing the child any information. But most people do not know about the registry since it is poorly advertised and underutilized by social work agencies.

Dena supervises adoptions for the county, and she often has adoptees come to her asking for information about their natural parents. She has a great deal of that information, but adoptees are only entitled to non-identifying information. The law of the state she is in requires that, and when the natural parents gave the child up for adoption, the state agency promised them secrecy.

One woman came to see her. She had been to the registry without success and had tracked down the name of her natural mother, but it was a common name and she could not find her. So Dena gave her the father's name -- a piece of identifying information. Dena is concerned about the interests of the natural parents, and so she does not give information to everyone who seeks it. She gives it only to those she judges will be sensitive to the needs of their natural parents. She gives it to those who do not act only for selfish reasons, but work to change the law, and to those who work actively in support groups that exist for adoptive children, showing in that way they care about others.

A young brother and sister showed up one day, without making an appointment, and asked her for help. She was concerned that they had not called her ahead-of-time. 'That shows a lack of concern for me. I can't just see anyone who walks in the door!' And they said they would do whatever they had to do to find out who their natural parents were. She did not give them the information even though she knew.

Dena is concerned about what she does. She is breaking the law, and she knows it. 'Do I really have the right,' she asks, 'to go above the law and say this person deserves it and this one does not?' Doing that puts her job at risk. At one time the Court would contact the natural parents when they were sought by an adopted child and ask the parents if they wanted to use the registry. But a judge ruled that the State 'has no right to interrupt their lives in that way.' So she sometimes gives extra information

She does it because she thinks the law as it now stands is unfair. Some are able to find out about their natural parents and others are not, based purely on accidents like whether the natural parents have heard of the registry.

Guiding Questions

1. Try to understand why the participants are doing what they are doing by constructing arguments that would justify their acts or omissions.
2. Who are the participants in the case, and who else is affected? HOW?
3. What is it the participants have or have not done or are or are not doing that they ought to be doing -- particularly insofar as they cause harms?
4. Why are they doing what they are doing?
5. Are the reasons that seem most plausible to attribute to them sufficient to justify what they are doing?
6. Which ethical principle are they violating?
7. What would be an ethical move in this case?
8. Determine what goals the participants had and what means they thought would achieve those goals; then determine what goals ought to be achieved and determine what means are best for achieving those goals.

QUESTION FOUR

Case study : Jane

Jane got AIDS through a transfusion and is suspected of incestuous involvement with her 15-year-old son, Al, who is in foster care. She informed a social worker that she has AIDS, and when the social worker said, 'There are people who ought to know about that,' Jane told her, 'If you tell anyone, I'll sue. I would rather my children find me dead than find out

that I have AIDS.' But the social worker told the caseworker for Al because Al may be a carrier. He has a girlfriend and claims to be sexually active, and his foster family may be at risk.

The caseworker, John, went to his supervisor and presented her with a hypothetical case. 'If I knew that the natural mother of a young boy in my care has AIDS and might be involved incestuously with the boy, but I am not supposed to know that she has AIDS, what should I do?' They both went to the judge who had put the child in foster care and posed the same hypothetical. Al was up for review at the time, and he had been acting out. So the judge ordered a complete physical, asking that every test possible be done to see why he is acting out, including a test for HIV. Such a test is not a normal part of a physical, and the child is not to know.

John argued that 'that will cover us for having a complete physical because it's a court order,' and he remarked, 'I've gone through all my channels so that if it came back on me, I could say, "Hey, the judge told me to do it!".'

Guiding Questions

Use the ethical decision making model to respond to the case.

Question Five

Compare and contrast Feminist and constructionist models of ethical decision making. Use examples to illustrate your answer.

QUESTION FIVE

Social workers are guided by the values, standards and principles in the code of ethics. Critically discuss the competencies and good practices that social workers should display in their practice.

QUESTION SIX

Case study: Tara

Tara has been working as a therapist for the past two years in a local community mental health center that primarily treats middle-aged adults who suffer from depression. Tara was offered this position after successfully completing both her practicum and her internship at the center. While Tara is regarded as an excellent counselor by her clients and colleagues, she realizes that her skills are limited by the lack of variety in her training and experience. One afternoon Tara's supervisor approached her and asked her if she would be interested in facilitating a group therapy session once a week at one of the center's other branches. The group is for newly diagnosed schizophrenic clients, and is meant to help them cope specifically with their auditory or visual hallucinations. Tara was excited about the possibility of doing something new, and accepted the invitation to facilitate the group. She remembered back to her psychopathology class in graduate school, and felt comfortable running the group based on the knowledge of schizophrenia that she acquired from the class.

Do you agree or disagree with the therapist action. Briefly explain your ethical rationale for agreement or disagreement. You're encouraged to cite appropriate ethical principles and/or code of ethics standards.