



UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

NULM 811: HEALTH CARE ETHICS AND LAW

STREAMS: MSC (NULM) Y1S1

TIME: 3 HOURS

DAY/DATE: WEDNESDAY 23/04/2025

2.30 P.M. – 5.30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Do not write anything on the question paper.
- Mobile phones and any other reference materials are NOT allowed in the examination room.
- The paper has three (3) Sections.
- Answer ALL Questions in Section One and Two. Answer Only Two Questions in Section Three
- Your answers for Section A (MCQs) should be on the first page of the answer Booklet.
- Number ALL your answers and indicate the order of appearance in the space provided in the cover page of the examination answer booklet.

SECTION ONE: ALL QUESTION COMPULSORY (10 MARKS)

1. Which of the following best represents the concept of **autonomy** in nursing practice?
 - a. The nurse making decisions for the patient to ensure their well-being
 - b. The nurse respecting the patient's right to make their own decisions regarding care
 - c. The nurse advocating for better healthcare policies
 - d. The nurse being held accountable for all actions related to patient care
2. Which of the following is a right of a **patient** under healthcare laws in Kenya?
 - a. The right to refuse treatment and receive care in a manner that respects their dignity
 - b. The right to demand any treatment, regardless of medical necessity
 - c. The right to control the actions of healthcare providers
 - d. The right to have any treatment given without any explanation
3. An **ethical dilemma** in nursing is defined as:
 - a. A situation in which there is a clear right or wrong answer to the problem
 - b. A situation where a nurse is unsure about which action to take because of conflicting ethical principles
 - c. A decision that only involves legal concerns, not moral concerns
 - d. A situation where a nurse has all the necessary resources to solve the problem

NULM 811

4. When making healthcare decisions, it is important to consider the **historical and cultural** context because:
 - a. It helps to ignore patient preferences for a more efficient decision-making process
 - b. It ensures respect for diverse patient values and beliefs in order to avoid discrimination
 - c. It leads to patients receiving only traditional forms of care
 - d. It simplifies the decision-making process by enforcing one standard of care
5. Which of the following factors **does not** typically influence healthcare decision-making?
 - a. The patient's race and ethnicity
 - b. The patient's gender and societal roles
 - c. The personal biases and assumptions of the healthcare provider
 - d. The patient's understanding of the treatment options available
6. A nurse encounters a **racially biased opinion** from a colleague while discussing patient care. What is the nurse's **ethical responsibility**?
 - a. Ignore the situation to avoid conflict
 - b. Speak up and advocate for cultural competence and equality in patient care
 - c. Agree with the colleague to maintain a positive work relationship
 - d. Report the colleague's behavior to the patient's family
7. A patient refuses blood transfusion on religious grounds. The nurse's responsibility is to:
 - a. Overrule the decision and proceed with the transfusion
 - b. Respect the patient's religious beliefs and find alternative solutions if possible
 - c. Convince the patient to change their beliefs and accept the transfusion
 - d. Report the patient to social services for refusal of treatment
8. A nurse is advocating for a vulnerable patient's access to necessary care. This is an example of:
 - a. **Agency**—acting on behalf of the healthcare institution
 - b. **Autonomy**—making decisions without consulting the patient
 - c. **Advocacy**—supporting the patient's rights and needs within the healthcare system
 - d. **Accountability**—holding the patient responsible for their own care
9. Which of the following is an example of a **health professional's responsibility**?
 - a. Ensuring patient confidentiality is maintained at all times
 - b. Deciding the patient's treatment without consulting them
 - c. Providing treatment without regard to the patient's wishes
 - d. Using personal judgment to administer treatment without clinical guidelines
10. **Societal rights**, in the context of healthcare, include:
 - a. The collective responsibility of society to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all individuals
 - b. The exclusive right of healthcare providers to make all healthcare decisions without patient input
 - c. The right of a healthcare institution to prioritize profit over patient care
 - d. The responsibility of patients to pay for healthcare services in full, regardless of income

NULM 811

SECTION TWO: ALL QUESTIONS ARE MANDATORY (20 MARKS)

- a. Explain the role of ethical perspectives in nursing practice, and how they guide decision-making in situations where patient care involves conflicting moral principles. (5 marks)
- b. Explains briefly concept of informed consent and explain the nurse's responsibility in ensuring that informed consent is properly obtained from patients. (5 marks)
- c. List and explain three key patient rights in healthcare that should be upheld by nurses to ensure ethical practice. (5 marks)
- d. Explain briefly the role of professional organizations in nursing and how they contribute to the development of the nursing profession. (5 marks)

SECTION THREE: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS - ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS (40 MARKS)

- a. Discuss the importance of therapeutic communication in the nurse-patient relationship. How can nurses build trust and rapport with their patients to improve care outcomes? Provide specific examples of techniques that nurses can use to enhance communication. (10 marks)
 - b. Describe a scenario where a nurse might face an ethical dilemma in practice. How should the nurse approach the situation, considering ethical principles like autonomy, beneficence, and justice? Discuss the steps the nurse can take to resolve this dilemma. (10 marks)
 - c. Evaluate the ethical implications of telemedicine in nursing practice. How does the use of technology in patient care affect the nurse-patient relationship, patient confidentiality, and healthcare delivery in both developed and developing countries? (10 marks)
 - d. How can cultural competence in nursing practice improve patient care? Provide an example of how cultural beliefs can impact healthcare decisions, and discuss how nurses can ensure that care is respectful and culturally appropriate. (10 marks)
 - e. Discuss the challenges that nurses face when involved in resource allocation decisions, especially in the context of limited resources. How should nurses prioritize care when resources are scarce, and what ethical principles should guide their decision-making? (10 marks)
-