

GX 2339 - G0

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

Semester II Examinations 2003/2004

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| Exam Code(s) | 2NG1 and 2NG2 |
| Exam(s) | Second Bachelor of Nursing Science (General) Second Bachelor of Nursing Science (Psychiatric) |
| Module Code(s) | NU219 |
| Module(s) | Fundamental Issues in Health Care |
| Paper No. | 1 |
| Repeat Paper | Special Paper |
| External Examiner(s) | |
| Internal Examiner(s) | Dr Pádraig Mac Neela Ms. Mary Keys Ms. Heike Felzmann Schmidtt |

Instructions:

You are expected to answer **one** question from each section.
Use a separate answer book for each section.
All questions carry an equal mark.

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| Duration | 3 hours |
| No. of Answer books | 3 |

Requirements:

Handout
MCQ
Statistical Tables
Graph Paper
Log Graph Paper
Other Material

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| No. of Pages | 4 |
| Department(s) | Centre for Nursing Studies |

SECTION A HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

Please answer **one** question from this section. All questions carry an equal mark.

1. Adherence to nursing advice, medications and other treatments is lower than many people would expect. Can the study of psychology provide insight into non-adherence on the part of patients and clients?
2. The experience of stress is often associated with ill health and distress. Discuss how stress has been conceptualised and explained by psychological researchers, giving examples related to health care where appropriate.
3. Psychology provides several approaches to treating mental health problems. Outline **either** (a) behavioural / cognitive-behavioural **or** (b) humanistic approaches to treating these difficulties, giving examples of therapeutic techniques where relevant.

SECTION B PHILOSOPHY

Please answer **one** question from this section. Read the case carefully and answer all the questions (a – c) that refers to that particular case. All questions carry an equal mark.

4. A patient is brought to the Unit by his family who are worried about recent changes in his mood and behaviour. In the waiting area, he does not seem to pay any attention to what happens around him. When a nurse approaches him and insists that he come with her to see the doctor, he first does not react and then mutters to himself without looking at her “doctors are no good, hospitals are no good, meds are no good ... maybe I should just kill myself, or maybe I should go to France ... but I’m sure my parents won’t let me, and you won’t let me either”. When she takes his arm, he suddenly hits her.
 - a) Using different philosophical theories of illness, how could you explain what is wrong with this patient?
 - b) Do you think this patient is responsible for hitting the nurse? What would you need to consider?
 - c) Would it be possible to receive informed consent from this patient for treatment? What moral and practical aspects need to be taken into account with regards to treatment decisions?

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5. A patient with moderate dementia has been sent to your ward from a Nursing Home for treatment of a serious infection. She has responded well to the treatment, and enjoys her food and the attention given to her by the nurses. Her son rarely comes to visit, but when he does, he only stays briefly and is usually unfriendly to the staff. One day you overhear him complaining to the doctor because his mother has been treated instead of letting her die. "She is not herself any more. She would not have wanted to live like that. It is undignified – but you don't care at all!"
 - a) Drawing on theories of personhood, please describe the patient's current state and compare it to her state before the onset of dementia. Is her son right that she is "not the same" any more? Please explain!
 - b) What aspects should you consider with regard to this patient's dignity? What does this mean for your daily care of the patient?
 - c) What should you keep in mind in your further contacts with the son? Whose perspectives and needs do you need to be taken into account in deciding on your approach?

6. An elderly woman who lives in a nursing home is unsteady on her feet. She has just recovered from the injuries she suffered from a previous fall. She nevertheless insists on being free to move around as she pleases and does not want to be dependent on a member of staff to accompany her. When the staff explain their position, she argues with them and tells them it is none of their business; she is willing to take the risk. In a staff meeting it has been discussed whether she should perhaps be restrained or sedated for her own good. Right after this meeting you overhear her talking to a fellow resident of the nursing home "They run this place like a prison. I bet they enjoy having so much power over us".
 - a) Would the staff be justified in restraining the patient against her will? What moral arguments would you have to consider in this case?
 - b) Describe different ways in which power may play a role in the everyday practice of a nursing home.
 - c) How do you understand the goals of care in a nursing home for the elderly? Are all of these goals for health care? What (philosophical) conception of health underlies your position? Please explain!

SECTION C LAW

Please answer one question from this section. All questions carry an equal mark.

7. The Mental Health Act 2001 seeks to bring many improvements to Mental Health Law in Ireland. Discuss these changes. In your opinion will they adequately address the problems in the Mental Health system?

8. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and correspondence. (European Convention on Human Rights – Article 8) There are however established exceptions to the right to confidentiality. Please outline and discuss these exceptions.

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9. Legally effective consent is dependent upon the individual possessing the capacity to understand what is involved, to make their own decision and to be able to communicate that decision. This requirement obviously faces problems in the area of the child and the incapacitated adult. Please discuss in relation to **either** the child or the incapacitated adult.

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