

*Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh*  
*National University of Ireland, Galway*

GX 1132

**Semester II Examinations, 2004/2005**

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	
External Examiner(s)	
Internal Examiner(s)	Dr Pádraig Mac Neela Ms. Joan Kelly Ms. Heike Felzmann Schmidt

**Instructions:** You are expected to answer one question from each section.  
Use a separate answer book for each section.

Duration	3 hours
No. of Answer books	3

**Requirements:**

Handout	
MCQ	
Statistical Tables	
Graph Paper	
Log Graph Paper	
Other Material	

No. of Pages	3
Department(s)	Centre for Nursing Studies

## **Section A**

### **Health Psychology**

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

1. Judgements and decisions are a fundamental component of nursing practice. Discuss this statement, with reference to research into clinical judgement and decision making.
2. Psychological assessment methods comprise one of the primary practical applications of psychology. Discuss.
3. 'Organisations can both help and hinder the effective delivery of health care.' Discuss, with reference to research carried out in a nursing context AND more general theories of organisational behaviour.

## **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.

1. John, a 43-year old man, developed increasingly severe problems with alcohol following his divorce 4 years ago. His friends and family tried to convince him that he should seek help, but he refused to do so and said he was doing fine. Then he lost his job 5 months ago. In the first months of unemployment his drinking got worse, but during the last 6 weeks he has managed to stay sober. He has now finally found a new job. On the day before he starts his new job, he starts drinking again and is unable to go to work on his first day. John has now come to see his GP to talk about his problem.
  - (a) How would different theories of illness describe alcoholism?
  - (b) Describe possible reactions one might have to John's relapse, using the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person perspectives constructively and non-constructively.
  - (c) How could the GP ~~make~~ sure that the patient gives informed consent to treatment? What information should John be given?
2. Lisa, a 20-year old woman, has come to the emergency room on a very busy Saturday night. Lisa has several deep cuts on her left arm that will need stitches. To the nurse, Christine, who is admitting her, she says that the knife slipped when she was chopping vegetables. Christine has noticed scars on both her arms and is aware that Lisa avoids meeting her eyes. When Christine tries to explore how Lisa is feeling, Lisa reassures her quickly that she is fine and just wants to go home as soon as possible.

**Overleaf/**

- (a) Assuming that the patient's injuries are due to self-harm, assess the degree of responsibility that the patient has for her self-harming actions.
- (b) Consider different possible reactions to the patient's acts of self-harm, using the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person perspectives constructively and non-constructively.
- (c) Should the patient be allowed to go home or should a health care professional with psychiatric expertise be called to see her, even though Lisa claims to be fine? Explain the moral issue that is at stake here.

3. Mike, a 32-year old man, is experiencing serious problems at his workplace. He started in this company last year. He works in an office with considerable public contact and is partly responsible for the acquisition of new customers. Mike's colleagues are impressed by his ability to engage with customers; he has managed to acquire important clients for the company. However, with regard to managing his daily routine, his work is often unsatisfactory. He tends to forget about appointments with clients, is frequently late to complete tasks that have been assigned to him and sometimes even forgets about them entirely. Assume Mike fulfils the criteria for adult ADHD. What should the employer consider in order to make a morally well founded decision concerning Mike's future in the company? Pay attention to the moral principles, the concept of illness, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person perspectives and responsibility, insofar as these are relevant to the case. Use the DECIDE-model to guide your moral reflection.

### Section C Law

#### Answer one question

1. Consent to treatment is fundamental to health care and is an expression of the patient's right to self-determination. Discuss consent in relation to either incapacitated adults or children.
2. The patient's right to confidentiality is not absolute, there are exceptions to it. Please outline and discuss these exceptions.
3. The Mental Health Act 2001 will bring about many changes to the legal rights of psychiatric patients. Discuss these changes.

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