



**AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY SCIENCES  
END OF SEMESTER APRIL 2026 EXAMINATIONS  
PAPER 1**

**COURSE CODE AND TITLE: BSN 215: Medical Sociology**

**DATE: 8th APRIL 2026**

**Duration: 2 HOURS                      Start: 2:00pm                      Finish: 4:00pm**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. This exam is out of 70 marks
2. This Examination comprises THREE Sections. Section I: Multiple Choice Questions (20 marks)  
Section II: Short Answer Questions (30 marks) and Section III: Long Answer Questions (20 marks)
3. Answer ALL Questions.
4. Do Not write anything on the question paper -use the back of your booklet for rough work if need be.

**SECTION I: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS****(20 MARKS)**

1. A nurse treats a patient differently after discovering they are a “software engineer” rather than a “manual laborer.” This is an example of a nurse responding to the patient’s:
  - A. Ascribed status
  - B. Achieved status
  - C. Role strain
  - D. Social pathology
2. According to Parsons’s theory, a patient who refuses to seek “technically competent help” is failing to fulfill which aspect of the “Sick Role”,
  - A. The right to abstain from work
  - B. The right to be cared for
  - C. The obligation to desire to get well
  - D. The obligation to pay for services
3. Sociological theory that argues that health services primarily exist to maintain a healthy workforce for the benefit of capitalist profit is:-
  - A. Functionalist theory
  - B. Marxist theory
  - C. Feminist theory
  - D. Social constructionist theory
4. A nurse feels overwhelmed because they must provide emotional support to a dying patient while also completing urgent documentation for four other patients. This is:
  - A. Role conflict
  - B. Role distance
  - C. Role strain
  - D. Role embracement
5. The concept that describes how a terminal diagnosis like cancer often erases a person’s other roles in the eyes of society is:-
  - A. Master status
  - B. Ascribed status
  - C. Role confusion
  - D. Social stigma
6. A patient refuses a life-saving blood transfusion due to religious beliefs. This represents a conflict between:-
  - A. Family vs. Economic
  - B. Religion vs. Medical
  - C. Political vs. Educational
  - D. Economic vs. Political
7. Foucault’s concept of the “Medical Gaze” refers to:
  - A. Looking at a patient with compassion
  - B. Treating a patient as a biological “case” rather than a whole person
  - C. The social status of doctors
  - D. The physical examination process
8. The type of family characterized by the husband living in the wife’s home is:-
  - A. Patrilocal
  - B. Matrilocl
  - C. Polygamous
  - D. Conjugal

9. The “Social Gradient of Health” suggests that:
  - A. Health is purely biological
  - B. Health outcomes improve as social status increases
  - C. Genetic factors are the only determinants of health
  - D. Urban areas are always healthier than rural areas
10. When a nurse uses a very clinical, robotic tone while performing an invasive procedure to manage their own stress, is called:
  - A. Role embracement
  - B. Role confusion
  - C. Role distance
  - D. Social control
11. A doctor makes a decision for a patient without their input, believing it is in their “best interest.” This is known as:
  - A. Patient empowerment
  - B. Paternalism
  - C. Medicalization
  - D. Social solidarity
12. A term that describes the physical and emotional exhaustion experienced by family members caring for a relative with Alzheimer’s disease?
  - A. Role conflict
  - B. Caregiver burden
  - C. Anomie
  - D. Social disorganization
13. In Kenya, a doctor feels purposeless because they are trained in high-tech care but work in a facility with no supplies. This state of “normlessness” is:
  - A. Social conflict
  - B. Social pathology
  - C. Anomie
  - D. Deviance
14. The type of power that is rare in standard medical care but seen in mandatory quarantines or involuntary psychiatric holds is:-
  - A. Authoritative power
  - B. Rational-legal power
  - C. Coercive power
  - D. Paternalistic power
15. If a society is organized around mother-based ancestry, it is referred to as:
  - A. Patrilineal
  - B. Matronymic
  - C. Matrilineal
  - D. Matriarchal
16. The belief that “shyness” is actually a “Social Anxiety Disorder” requiring medication is an example of:
  - A. Medicalization
  - B. Stigma
  - C. Health literacy
  - D. Professionalization
17. An institution that provides “theodicy” to help patients find meaning in suffering?
  - A. Education
  - B. Religion
  - C. Family
  - D. Political institution

18. A patient using the internet to research symptoms and demanding specific tests is demonstrating:
  - A. Information asymmetry
  - B. Patient empowerment
  - C. Deviance
  - D. Role strain
19. "Folkways" differ from "Mores" because:
  - A. Folkways are laws
  - B. Mores are morally significant ("musts") while folkways are not
  - C. Folkways are taboos
  - D. Only mores are passed between generations
20. Rapid, unplanned urbanization in Kenya leading to cholera outbreaks in slums is an example of:
  - A. Social solidarity
  - B. Social pathology
  - C. Professionalization
  - D. Role embracement

**SECTION II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (30 MARKS)**

1. Using the concept of "Biographical Disruption" (Bury 1982), explain how a chronic illness like Diabetes affects a patient's daily life beyond their physical symptoms (6 marks).
2. Differentiate between "Ascribed Status" and "Achieved Status" in a clinical setting, providing one medical example for each (6 marks).
3. Identify and explain three reasons why medical sociology is important for nursing practice (6 marks).
4. Explain the difference between "Manifest Functions" and "Latent Functions" of a hospital, providing a clear example for each (6 marks)
5. Explain the "Artefact Explanation" of health inequalities and why most sociologists now discount it (6 marks).

**SECTION III: LONG ANSWER QUESTION – (20 MARKS)**

1. "Education and the Economy are two of the strongest social determinants of health." Discuss this statement by:
  - a) Explaining how "Health Literacy" (Education) influences patient outcomes. (5marks)
  - b) Discussing how "Occupational Health" (Economy) creates a social gradient in health (5 marks)
  - c) Explaining how the "Medical-Industrial Complex" and its impact on global health (10 marks)