



AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY SCIENCES
NORMAL EXAMINATION APRIL-MAY 2026 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE AND TITLE: BSM 123, Midwifery Law and Ethics

DATE: 8th APRIL 2026

Duration: 2HRS

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 ANSWER QUESTION (20 MARKS)

1. Ethics in midwifery primarily deals with:
 - A. Legal requirements only
 - B. Moral principles guiding behaviour
 - C. Hospital administration policies
 - D. Financial management
2. An example of a midwife's right:
 - A. Refusing to follow the law
 - B. Practicing within professional standards
 - C. Ignoring patient requests
 - D. Overriding hospital policies
3. Clients' rights include:
 - A. Making informed decisions about their care
 - B. Controlling staff salaries
 - C. Setting hospital policies
 - D. Ignoring medical advice

4. Core midwifery documents include:
 - A. International guidelines, policies, position papers
 - B. Staff vacation schedules
 - C. Local hospital maintenance records
 - D. Personal notes
5. Ethical theories help midwives to:
 - A. Decide legal penalties
 - B. Understand principles of right and wrong
 - C. File audits
 - D. Prepare administrative reports
6. Which of these best distinguishes ethics from law?
 - A. Ethics are societal principles; law is mandatory rule
 - B. Ethics are compulsory; law is optional
 - C. Ethics apply only to nurses; law applies to everyone
 - D. Ethics are written; law is unwritten
7. An ethical dilemma occurs when:
 - A. There is only one possible solution
 - B. Conflicting values or principles make decision-making difficult
 - C. The midwife is following guidelines exactly
 - D. There is no patient involved
8. Ethical decision-making models are used to:
 - A. Increase workload
 - B. Support moral reasoning in complex situations
 - C. Replace professional judgment
 - D. Reduce documentation
9. Moral reasoning involves:
 - A. Choosing actions based on laws only
 - B. Applying ethical principles to reach justifiable decisions
 - C. Following hospital orders blindly
 - D. Ignoring patient autonomy
10. In reproductive health care, confidentiality is an ethical principle because it:
 - A. Protects patient privacy
 - B. Ensures legal compliance only
 - C. Reduces paperwork
 - D. Guarantees hospital funding
11. A midwife notices a colleague providing care that could harm a patient. The ethical action is to:
 - A. Ignore it
 - B. Report it according to professional guidelines
 - C. Ask the patient to take responsibility
 - D. Leave the workplace
12. The statement that best illustrates a client's autonomy:
 - A. The midwife decides the treatment alone
 - B. The client chooses among recommended treatment options
 - C. Family members make all decisions without consulting the client
 - D. Hospital administration decides the care plan

13. The action that demonstrates application of midwifery guidelines is:
 - A. Following evidence-based practices during delivery
 - B. Using personal opinions to decide care
 - C. Ignoring protocols for convenience
 - D. Copying practices from another hospital without review
14. Confidentiality in midwifery includes:
 - A. Sharing patient information with friends
 - B. Discussing patient details only with authorized staff
 - C. Posting anonymous patient cases online without consent
 - D. Avoiding documentation
15. The ethical principle that is illustrated when a midwife avoids harming a patient is:
 - A. Justice
 - B. Non-maleficence
 - C. Beneficence
 - D. Autonomy
16. A client refuses a recommended procedure due to cultural beliefs. The midwife should:
 - A. Respect the client's decision while explaining risks
 - B. Force the procedure to follow policy
 - C. Ignore the client's refusal
 - D. Discharge the patient immediately
17. Documentation in midwifery is important because it:
 - A. Serves as a legal record and supports ethical practice
 - B. Only satisfies administrative requirements
 - C. Replaces ethical decision-making
 - D. is optional for experienced midwives
18. A midwife faces a moral conflict between hospital policy and client preference. Which model can help make a decision?
 - A. Ethical decision-making model
 - B. Financial decision-making model
 - C. Administrative hierarchy model
 - D. Peer pressure model
19. An example of respecting the rights of significant others in care is:
 - A. Involving family members in care discussions with the client's consent
 - B. Ignoring the presence of family members
 - C. Allowing family to override the client's wishes
 - D. Excluding family from all decisions
20. Applying ethical principles in reproductive health care is:
 - A. Ensuring informed consent for contraception
 - B. Ignoring patient questions about reproductive choices
 - C. Deciding for the client without discussion
 - D. Sharing reproductive health information publicly without consent

SECTION II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (30 MARKS)

1. Define ethics and law in midwifery. Why are both important in practice? (5 Marks)
2. Explain three key ethical principles relevant to midwifery (5 Marks)
3. Explain two common ethical dilemmas in midwifery practice and how a midwife can address them (5 Marks)
4. Describe one common ethical dilemma a midwife may face and explain how it can be resolved. (5 Marks)
5. Explain how international and national midwifery guidelines support ethical practice. (5 Marks)
6. Discuss the role of moral reasoning in making ethical decisions in midwifery. (5 Marks)

SECTION II: LONG ANSWER QUESTION (20 MARKS)

1. **Case Study** (10 marks):
A pregnant client refuses a recommended medical procedure citing personal beliefs.
 - a. Identify the ethical principles involved.
 - b. Discuss any relevant legal considerations.
 - c. Suggest steps a midwife should take to manage the situation professionally.
2. **Essay** (10 marks):
Discuss the application of ethical decision-making models in midwifery.
 - a) Explain two models.
 - b) Provide practical examples of how these models guide midwives in balancing client rights, ethical principles, and professional responsibilities.