



UNIVERSITI KUALA LUMPUR  
INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

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**FINAL EXAMINATION**  
**MARCH 2025 SEMESTER**

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COURSE CODE : HDB21203  
COURSE TITLE : PROFESSIONAL HEALTHCARE ETHICS  
PROGRAMME NAME : BACHELOR OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE (HONOURS)  
DATE : 30 JUNE 2025  
TIME : 2:00PM - 5:00PM  
DURATION : 3 HOURS



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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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1. Please read the instructions given in the question paper CAREFULLY.
2. This question paper is printed on both sides of the paper.
3. This question paper consist of ONE sections.
4. Section A consist of five questions. Answer FOUR (4) questions only.
5. Please write your answer on the answer booklet provided.
6. Please answer all questions in English only.
7. Refer to the attached Formula/ Appendies.  *Tick if applicable*

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THERE ARE 6 PAGES OF QUESTIONS INCLUDING THIS PAGE

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**SECTION A (Total: 100 marks)**

**Answer FOUR (4) questions.**

**Please use the answer booklet provided.**

**Question 1**

**Case Scenario 1:**

A physician must decide whether to disclose a terminal diagnosis to a patient who has asked not to be told. The physician struggles between respecting the patient's autonomy and the principle of beneficence.

- (a) Define the four main principles of biomedical ethics and briefly explain their relevance in the above case.

(5 marks)

- (b) Compare and contrast deontological and utilitarian ethical theories in the context of medical decision-making.

(5 marks)

- (c) Explain the concept of virtue ethics and how it applies to healthcare professionals.

(5 marks)

- (d) Discuss the ethical principles that guide the doctor-patient relationships, the challenges that arise in interprofessional and institutional contexts, and strategies for building trust and reciprocity in diverse healthcare settings.

(10 marks)

**Question 2**

**Case Scenario 2:**

A new drug is undergoing a clinical trial, necessitating that the research team implement strong ethical governance to ensure participant protection.

- (a) Identify and explain three essential elements of research governance in clinical trials.

(5 marks)

- (b) Examine the difficulties in applying ethical guidelines to innovative treatment research, focusing on maintaining a balance between advancing scientific knowledge and ensuring patient safety.

(15 marks)

- (c) Explain what constitutes research misconduct and give two examples related to healthcare research.

(5 marks)

**Question 3**

Informed consent is a fundamental aspect of ethical healthcare practice. It respects and protects the autonomy of patients by ensuring they make choices about their care freely and with a clear understanding of what is involved. This process relies on open, honest communication between healthcare providers and patients, allowing individuals to make decisions that reflect their values and preferences.

- (a) Outline the steps involved in obtaining informed consent for surgery, ensuring the patient clearly understands the procedure and voluntarily agrees to proceed.  
(5 marks)
- (b) Explain the potential ethical and legal repercussions for healthcare providers who do not obtain proper informed consent from a patient.  
(5 marks)
- (c) Design and assess a strategy aimed at improving informed consent procedures, focusing on effective communication for patients facing language barriers, low literacy, or cognitive difficulties, while maintaining a patient-centered approach that empowers informed decision-making.  
(10 marks)
- (d) Examine how informed consent promotes ethical decision-making and why it is vital for preserving the trustworthiness and integrity of the healthcare profession.  
(5 marks)

**Question 4****Case Scenario 3:**

A middle-aged patient with a rare autoimmune condition is admitted, and the clinical team advises immediate immunosuppressive treatment. Meanwhile, the laboratory team detects irregularities in the test results and calls for retesting, which would postpone the therapy. The clinical team worries that the delay might lead to significant harm. This has led to a disagreement among the multidisciplinary team about prioritizing patient safety, professional obligations, and ethical considerations.

- (a) Analyze the ethical conflicts between the clinical and laboratory teams in this case, supporting your explanation with reference to two key ethical principles relevant to effective multidisciplinary collaboration.

(10 marks)

- (b) Examine how variations in professional roles, communication approaches, and organizational hierarchy may lead to this conflict, using specific examples from the case to illustrate your points.

(10 marks)

- (c) Suggest a systematic method to address this ethical conflict that aligns with professional standards and prioritizes patient-centered care. Provide reasons to support your proposed approach.

(5 marks)

**Question 5**

Ethical challenges in the clinical laboratory sector have become increasingly prominent, underscoring the essential responsibilities that laboratory professionals must uphold. In one significant incident, inaccurate test reporting by a laboratory technician led to a patient being wrongly diagnosed with a serious condition. Consequently, the patient underwent unnecessary treatments, experiencing both psychological trauma and physical harm.

- (a) Explain the core ethical principles that guide the practice of clinical laboratory professionals.

(5 marks)

- (b) Review the ethical misconduct in clinical laboratory science and analyze how key ethical principles were violated in that case.

(10 marks)

- (c) Propose a strategy to manage ethical dilemmas in clinical laboratory science that incorporates professional standards and ethical principles.

(10 marks)

**END OF EXAMINATION PAPER**

