

Fundamentals of Nursing Ethics and Values Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. A code of ethics is best described as what?**
 - A. A set of guiding principles that all members of a profession accept and a collective statement about the group's expectations and standards of behavior.**
 - B. A legal contract specifying patient rights.**
 - C. A clinical protocol for treatment.**
 - D. A financial policy for healthcare institutions.**

- 2. What influences value formation?**
 - A. Individual experiences and life events**
 - B. Genetics alone**
 - C. Weather patterns**
 - D. Economic status alone**

- 3. In utilitarian ethics, how is the value of an action determined?**
 - A. By its usefulness or consequences**
 - B. By its inherent moral worth**
 - C. By the actor's intentions**
 - D. By adherence to universal rules**

- 4. The ANA code of nursing ethics articulates that the nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient. This includes the protection of patient privacy. On that basis, which elements are included in protecting patients according to the code?**
 - A. Health, safety, and rights**
 - B. Only health**
 - C. Only privacy**
 - D. Financial protection**

- 5. What does the principle of justice primarily address?**
 - A. Fairness in resource distribution and access.**
 - B. Including patients in decisions about care.**
 - C. Keeping promises to patients.**
 - D. Avoiding harm.**

- 6. Veracity in nursing ethics refers to which practice?**
- A. Truthfulness in information sharing.**
 - B. Respecting patient autonomy regardless of truth.**
 - C. Duty to do good.**
 - D. Protecting confidentiality.**
- 7. Which ethical principle is highlighted when lack of access to affordable health care causes harm?**
- A. Beneficence**
 - B. Autonomy**
 - C. Nonmaleficence**
 - D. Veracity**
- 8. In most ethical dilemmas in health care, the solution to the dilemma requires negotiation among members of the health care team. Why is the nurse's point of view valuable?**
- A. Nurses develop a relationship to the patient that is unique among all professional health care providers**
 - B. Nurses have the most training**
 - C. Nurses can override physician decisions**
 - D. Nurses are legally responsible for outcomes**
- 9. The concept that a nurse is accountable for their own actions and for the actions of those they delegate is called what?**
- A. Responsibility**
 - B. Accountability**
 - C. Ethics**
 - D. Professionalism**
- 10. Which ethical principle describes the obligation to do no harm?**
- A. Beneficence**
 - B. Nonmaleficence**
 - C. Autonomy**
 - D. Justice**

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. A code of ethics is best described as what?

- A. A set of guiding principles that all members of a profession accept and a collective statement about the group's expectations and standards of behavior.**
- B. A legal contract specifying patient rights.**
- C. A clinical protocol for treatment.**
- D. A financial policy for healthcare institutions.**

A code of ethics represents the profession's shared moral commitments and the standards members are expected to uphold. It serves as a compass for everyday decisions and interactions, guiding how nurses should treat patients, handle confidential information, obtain informed consent, and respond to ethical challenges. It also provides a basis for accountability and trust within the profession and with the public, by articulating core values such as beneficence, nonmaleficence, autonomy, justice, and fidelity. It's not a legal contract about patient rights, which are established by laws and regulations. It's not a clinical protocol that specifies how to treat each condition, which would be a standard of care or treatment guideline. It's not a financial policy governing how a healthcare institution allocates resources, which deals with budgeting and economics. The code of ethics focuses on professional ethical responsibilities and the moral framework guiding practice.

2. What influences value formation?

- A. Individual experiences and life events**
- B. Genetics alone**
- C. Weather patterns**
- D. Economic status alone**

Value formation comes mainly from the experiences a person lives through—their family upbringing, culture, education, relationships, and the events that leave a lasting impression. These lived experiences teach what matters, what is considered right or important, and shape the priorities guiding decisions and behavior. Genetics can influence temperament or predispositions, and economic status can affect what opportunities exist, but they do not by themselves determine what someone values. Weather patterns have no direct impact on personal values. Recognizing that values derive from lived experience helps you understand patients' choices and approach conversations with respect when beliefs differ.

3. In utilitarian ethics, how is the value of an action determined?

- A. By its usefulness or consequences**
- B. By its inherent moral worth**
- C. By the actor's intentions**
- D. By adherence to universal rules**

Utilitarian ethics judge the value of an action by its consequences—specifically, by how much overall happiness or well-being it produces. An action is considered right if its outcome maximizes good for the greatest number, and wrong if it leads to less overall happiness. This result-focused approach explains why the action's usefulness or consequences determine its moral value. For instance, if telling a harmless lie would prevent a catastrophe and increase total happiness, a utilitarian would see that lie as morally acceptable because the outcome improves well-being overall. Other ethical theories look at different factors—intrinsic moral worth, the actor's intentions, or adherence to universal rules—so they would evaluate the same action differently, not mainly on its net consequences.

4. The ANA code of nursing ethics articulates that the nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient. This includes the protection of patient privacy. On that basis, which elements are included in protecting patients according to the code?

- A. Health, safety, and rights**
- B. Only health**
- C. Only privacy**
- D. Financial protection**

The central idea is that protecting patients, as the ANA Code of Ethics requires, means safeguarding their health, ensuring their safety, and upholding their rights. Privacy is a component of patient rights, emphasizing confidentiality and autonomy. So the elements included are health, safety, and rights. Privacy is encompassed within rights, reinforcing that protecting a patient's personal information is part of upholding their dignity and autonomy. The other options are incomplete because health alone misses safety and rights, privacy alone misses health and broader rights, and financial protection isn't the focus of this protection framework.

5. What does the principle of justice primarily address?

- A. Fairness in resource distribution and access.**
- B. Including patients in decisions about care.**
- C. Keeping promises to patients.**
- D. Avoiding harm.**

Justice in nursing ethics centers on fairness in how resources are distributed and who has access to care. It requires treating people equitably, prioritizing those in greatest need when resources are limited, and ensuring decisions aren't biased by personal characteristics. In practice, justice guides how medications, beds, and services are allocated and promotes equal access for all patients. This differs from autonomy, which focuses on respecting a patient's own choices; fidelity, which involves keeping promises; and nonmaleficence, which centers on avoiding harm. So fairness in resource distribution and access is what justice primarily addresses.

6. Veracity in nursing ethics refers to which practice?

- A. Truthfulness in information sharing.**
- B. Respecting patient autonomy regardless of truth.**
- C. Duty to do good.**
- D. Protecting confidentiality.**

Veracity means being truthful in information sharing with patients. In nursing, this means communicating diagnoses, prognoses, treatment options, risks, and uncertainties accurately and without deception. Honest communication respects the patient's right to know what is happening and to make informed decisions about care, which builds trust and supports valid consent. Confidentiality is about protecting private information, which is important but separate from truthfulness of the information conveyed during care. Respecting patient autonomy is about honoring a patient's right to make decisions, and while veracity supports informed choice, it specifically addresses the honesty of the information provided. Beneficence, the duty to do good, underpins care but does not define veracity itself.

7. Which ethical principle is highlighted when lack of access to affordable health care causes harm?

- A. Beneficence**
- B. Autonomy**
- C. Nonmaleficence**
- D. Veracity**

Nonmaleficence is being tested here. It embodies the obligation to do no harm to patients. When lack of access to affordable health care results in harm—delayed treatment, deterioration of conditions, or suffering that could have been avoided—the situation violates this principle. The focus is on preventing harm through the absence of barriers to care, which is exactly what nonmaleficence calls nurses and the health system to uphold. Beneficence involves actively promoting good and providing beneficial care, which is related but emphasizes doing good rather than preventing harm. Autonomy centers on respecting patients' rights to make their own choices, and veracity concerns truthful communication. The harm tied to inaccessible care aligns most directly with nonmaleficence.

8. In most ethical dilemmas in health care, the solution to the dilemma requires negotiation among members of the health care team. Why is the nurse's point of view valuable?

A. Nurses develop a relationship to the patient that is unique among all professional health care providers

B. Nurses have the most training

C. Nurses can override physician decisions

D. Nurses are legally responsible for outcomes

In ethical health-care decisions, the nurse's view is valuable because the nurse often has the deepest, ongoing relationship with the patient, providing a unique window into the patient's values, preferences, and daily realities. This closeness means the nurse can accurately describe what matters to the patient—such as goals for comfort, independence, or daily functioning—and how different options will affect quality of life in real, lived terms. That insight helps the team weigh benefits and burdens in light of the patient's wishes, supporting true patient-centered, autonomous decision making while preventing harm and promoting well-being. This perspective isn't about having the most training, exercising authority to override others, or bearing legal responsibility for outcomes. It's about bringing the patient's voice and practical context into the negotiation, ensuring that proposed plans align with what the patient values and can realistically endure.

9. The concept that a nurse is accountable for their own actions and for the actions of those they delegate is called what?

A. Responsibility

B. Accountability

C. Ethics

D. Professionalism

Accountability means being answerable for your own actions and for the actions of those you delegate. In nursing, you often assign tasks to other team members, but you still hold ultimate responsibility for the care provided. This includes ensuring the person you delegate to is competent, giving clear instructions, and supervising and evaluating outcomes to safeguard patient safety. Responsibility is related but narrower, focusing on the duties you personally perform. Ethics deals with moral principles that guide what is right or wrong, and professionalism refers to the overall conduct and standards of practice. Therefore, accountability best captures the idea that you are answerable for both your own actions and the actions of those you delegate.

10. Which ethical principle describes the obligation to do no harm?

A. Beneficence

B. Nonmaleficence

C. Autonomy

D. Justice

Nonmaleficence is the obligation to do no harm. In nursing, this means avoiding actions or omissions that could injure the patient and carefully weighing risks before intervening. It's about preventing harm from procedures, medications, or neglect, and ensuring safeguards are in place to protect the patient from unnecessary harm. For example, when a treatment carries significant risk, the nurse evaluates whether the potential benefit justifies that risk and monitors for adverse effects if the treatment proceeds. Beneficence is about actively promoting the patient's good and well-being, which can involve taking steps to benefit the patient, not just avoiding harm. Autonomy focuses on respecting the patient's right to make informed choices about their own care. Justice concerns fairness in distributing care and resources.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://fundofnursingethicsvalues.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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