COVENANT UNIVERSITY
NIGERIA

TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER

PROGRAMME: PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE: PSY 422
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PSY422: Professional & Ethical Issues in Counseling & Psychology

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Question 1
a. What is ethics?
b. How can psychologists recognize ethical dilemmas?
c. Identify ethical decision-making process

Answer
(a) Ethics – what is right or what should be done in uncertain situations when values conflict.

B) Feelings of discomfort
   o Conflict with values, personally and professionally
   o Dissonance with virtues
   o Dissonance with moral reasoning

C) Identify the situation
   o Gather all relevant information
   o Identify ethical standards & legal policies
   o Develop and weigh alternative approaches using ethical standards & legal policies
   o Consult with professionals
   o Implement the approach, evaluate the outcome

Question 2
Identify principles guiding APA Code of Ethics
5 Principles are
1. Beneficence & Nonmaleficence - Do Good; Avoid Harm
2. Fidelity & Responsibility - Develop trust; accept responsibility of work; uphold professional standards of conduct
3. Integrity - Maximize benefits & minimize harm through accuracy, honesty & truthfulness
4. Justice - Exercise competence & reasonable judgment
5. Respect for People’s Rights & Dignity - Respect autonomy; maintain professional boundaries; preserve confidentiality & privacy

Question 3
Identify standards of APA Code of Ethics
Standards are
1. Resolving Ethical Issues
2. Competence
3. Human Relations
4. Privacy & Confidentiality
5. Advertising & Public Statements
6. Record Keeping & Fees
7. Education & Training
8. Research & Publication
9. Assessment
10. Therapy

Question 4
Identify ways of avoiding ethical pitfalls by applying the APA Ethical Code & Deborah Smith’s 10 pointers:
1. Understand Multiple Relationships
2. Protect Confidentiality
3. Respect Autonomy
4. Know Supervisory Responsibilities
5. Identify Client & Role
6. Document
7. Practice in Area of Expertise
8. Abandonment vs. Termination
9. Stick to the Evidence
10. Be Accurate in Billing

Question 5
Multiple relationships can lead to ethical dilemma in what can it be experienced?
1. Power differentials
2. Duration of relationships
3. Sexual relationships are never permissible
4. Gifts & bartering
5. Supervisor/supervisee

Question 6
a) In what situations is confidentiality not guaranteed?
b) How would you communicate this to the patient?

Question 7
If a patient asks you to send a report to another healthcare agency, what steps should you take?

Question 8
Regarding disclosure, when should you (or the VA) tell patients that a mistake was made in the course of their treatment?

Question 9
How do you know that a research subject understands the informed consent?

Question 10
How do you decide authorship hierarchy (i.e., who should be listed first)?