

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FINAL EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2011

TITLE OF PAPER: SOCIAL WORK METHODS

COURSE CODE: SOC 308

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION A
AND TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B**

ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS

**THIS PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION A

Question 1

Andile a 20 year old male presents to the emergency room of a hospital accompanied by his family. He is combative, smells of alcohol, and is obviously quite intoxicated. Three weeks ago, he was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI). Andile's wife reports that he has been drinking increasing amounts of alcohol since his marital problems developed 2 months ago. For 3 days he has been tearful and reported to another family member that he "felt hopeless about the marriage." His appetite, concentration, interest and energy levels, and sleep patterns are relatively normal. He denies suicidal ideation. Past history is significant for poor academic performance during high school (i.e. he was enrolled in special education classes). There is no previous history of alcohol or drug abuse.

- Discuss Andile's case using the **Ecological theory**.
- How is this theory useful in helping us understand the person-in-environment?

Question 2

In our work with clients ethical dilemmas are inevitable, using the case below discuss how this **ethical dilemma** can be best resolved. Suggest practical ways which will benefit the client who is at the center of this controversy.

Case

A client tells you that a previous therapist made sexual advances toward her. This is the third client from whom you have heard such allegations. The four courses of action offered to the respondent were:

- Call ethics committee/state licensing board,
- Tell patient she has right to contact ethics committee or state licensing board,
- Call the previous therapist about the violation, and
- Discuss the patient's anger but not the issue of professional standards.

SECTION B

Question 3

Burnout and self-care in social work practice have been neglected. Explain and justify why these topics should be part of the social work training. Use concrete examples to support your views.

Question 4

Discuss the seven stages of **Crisis intervention** you would use when working with a suicidal teenager. Use examples to strengthen your arguments.

Question 5

Discuss the family as a social system using the **Systems Theory**.

- Pay particular attention to the characteristic of a functional system
- Use incest or domestic abuse to demonstrate how a dysfunction in one part of a system affects the whole.
- Use examples to illustrate your point.

Question 6

"Group work can be a vehicle for social change". Discuss the statement and use examples where appropriate.