

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**FINAL EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2013**

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK AND  
SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

**COURSE CODE: SOC 208**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS  
ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS  
TOTAL MARKS 100**

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

### Question 1

Using **P-E-P-S-I** and **P-I-E** discuss the mission of social work. In your discussion include the NASW code of ethics, principles, and show its relevance to the social work profession. Use examples to support your views.

### Question 2

Roberta is a 71-year-old, single, part time pharmacist who was recently hospitalized for congestive heart failure. She is referred by her physician due to excessive crying, insomnia, and irritability. Roberta complains of waking up at night in a cold sweat and having chest pain. She states, "I feel very alone and worry about my health and having to retire. I don't know where I would get the money to live on or to pay for medical insurance if I get sick again. I am too old, and it is just too difficult to go on."

- a) Discuss why it is important to uphold social justice, human dignity, self-determination, acceptance and confidentiality as you work with client in the case above. Use examples to illustrate your points.
- b) Using the case above discuss the ethical principles that you would apply when working with older adults/elderly. What do you think her diagnosis would be? Support your answer.

### Question 3

#### Serenity

Serenity (age 13) has lived with her non-kin foster parents (the Burnetts) for twelve years, along with four other children, three of whom are foster children. Serenity has monthly contact with her biological mother. Their visits are "always fun," and Serenity frequently tells her biological mother about important things that are going on in her life. Serenity reported that she used to imagine living with her biological mother again, but that her social worker was helpful in explaining to her why she was initially removed and why she would not be able to return. Now Serenity does not want to live with her biological mother again, but she wishes that they could visit more often. Serenity has not had contact with her biological father and siblings in several years, but she believes that they live in nearby towns and is very interested in finding them. She has asked her social worker to help her find them, but does not yet know if her social worker will, in fact, help. Serenity reported feeling proud of her home with the Burnetts. She gave many examples of ways in which they are supportive. She is pleased that the Burnetts are pursuing legal guardianship and wishes that they would adopt her.

#### Questions:

1. What are the positive aspects of Serenity's experience in out-of-home care?
2. What are your concerns?
3. How would you address your concerns?
4. What services or community resources would improve the quality of Serenity's experience?
5. What ethnic/cultural considerations seem particularly relevant?

#### Probes:

1. How would you respond to Serenity's interest in seeing her biological mother more often?
2. How would you respond to Serenity's interest in finding her biological father and siblings?
3. How would you respond to Serenity's interest in being adopted by the Burnetts?

#### **Question 4**

Discuss group work using the Systems theory, paying particular attention to the ten principles of social group work and the roles of a social group worker. Use examples to strengthen your arguments.

#### **Question 5**

Discuss the social work principles you would use when working in mental health settings. Discuss how the following values apply in practice with individuals with mental illnesses and give examples on how each of these values would be put to work.

- Empowerment
- Social functioning
- Strengths
- Starting where the client is at
- Empathy and sympathy
- Getting the client's perspective on the problem
- Worth and dignity of an individual
- The capacity for people to grow
- Acceptance as a principle
- Individuality and uniqueness of individuals

#### **Question 6**

##### **CASE 1**

You receive a referral for a young woman, Louise, who is 24. She presented to her General Practitioner (G.P.) two weeks earlier saying that she feels tired all the time, is having difficulty sleeping, has no motivation and is often tearful. Louise said that she was finding it difficult to be patient with her young son, Thomas (age 2), and often finds herself shouting at him, she worries that she is a bad mother. The GP has prescribed antidepressants following a two-week follow up and has referred Louise to you facilitated self-help.

1. What type of things would you want to know at assessment?
2. What do you think is going on?
3. What might the difficulties working with Louise be?
4. How would you assess risk?
5. During your assessment session Louise tells you that she is having fleeting suicidal thoughts but that she doesn't want you to tell her G.P. as it is further evidence that she isn't coping and Thomas could get taken into care.
6. What do you do?