

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK

FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER DECEMBER 2015

TITLE OF PAPER: SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.  
COURSE CODE: SOC 411  
TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS  
TOTAL MARKS: 100

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.
2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

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

1. Define and identify a social problem. Discuss Herbert Blumer's phases in the career of the social problem.
2. Macionis, J. (2008) defines a social problem as, "a condition that undermines the well-being of some or all members of a society and is usually a matter of public controversy". Using your contextual understanding of social problems discuss this definition. Illustrate your answer.
3. Imagine something that you consider a personal problem between two people.
  - (a) How would symbolic interactionism explain this problem?
  - (b) How would conflict theory explain the problem?
4. Analyse social issues that are included in the new 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). What strategies according to you are necessary to achieve one of the stated goals?
5. Using the Swaziland situation and context; what would be the role and impact of education, employment and a positive environment in breaking the cycle of poverty?
6. Discuss social problems that have arisen due to the HIV and AIDS pandemic in Swaziland.