

# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND



## SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION – JULY 2016

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### BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK II

**TITLE OF PAPER** : THEORIES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR  
**COURSE NUMBER** : SWK 228  
**TIME ALLOWED** : 3 HOURS

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper consists of 3 pages.
2. Answer any three (3) questions.
3. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS

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This paper should not be opened until permission has been given by the invigilator.

### **Question 1**

Rogoff's (2003) theoretical work is based on the premise that human development is a cultural process. He argues that "human behavior, though inherently tied to biological processes, is also bound by culture. Culture is constantly redefined in each place and time, which impacts the individual's particular experience". Analyze the statement above and use examples to support your views.

### **Question 2**

Social work professionals frequently work from a bio-psycho-social perspective and often use frameworks that emphasize the importance of the environment, such as person-in-environment perspective, the meta-theory of systems, and the ecological framework.

Discuss why it is critical for social work professionals to understand (and use) different theories on human behavior in their work with different clients.

### **Question 3**

"*Behavioral or learning theories* differ from many other personality theories in one basic way. Instead of focusing on internal motivations, needs and perceptions, they focus on specific observable behaviors" (Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman (2007). Examine this statement and support your views with concrete examples.

### **Question 4**

"You are watching television and learn of an airplane crash wherein there were no survivors. The photos are vivid and accompanied by images and sounds of weeping relatives. The next day you have a flight out of town."

Or

You are in line for a flu shot and are not particularly anxious. But it appears that the nurse is clumsy, and several times patients in front of you give a loud yelp of pain when injected. Now it is your turn.

Based on the above illustration which **theory** might explain your reactions and your feeling(s) as you anticipate your pending journey or flu shot?

### **Question 5**

One evening, shortly after moving into this new apartment and while I was enjoying my evening shower, I unexpectedly heard the toilet flush. I gave a yelp of dismay and hopped out of the shower, angrily yelling “Don’t do that!” My roommate was astonished at my reaction. Our modern apartment did not have antiquated plumbing that reduced the flow of cold water when the toilets were flushed, and the shower temperature did not change.

Critically discuss the operant learning theory.

### **Question 6**

Imagine if every time you drove your car you had to consciously think through *every* step and decision—all the mechanics of driving, from getting into the car to turning the steering wheel, as well as the vast attentional energy required to purposely examine every bit of visual, auditory, and tactile information one encounters along the way. It would take a long time to get to your destination, would be exhausting and stressful (given that one has to sustain a continuous level of high alert and highly active processing of even trivial environmental information), and might even increase your risk of an accident given that attentional focus is so diffuse and taxing, reaction time to truly significant information is impaired.

Use the example above to critically discuss the cognitive behavioural theory.

**[100 marks]**