

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK
FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER, DECEMBER 2017**

TITLE OF PAPER: FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK AND INTERVIEWING

COURSE CODE: SWK 429

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS**
- 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS**
- 3. TOTAL MARKS 100**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED
BY THE INVIGILATOR**

Question 1

Case 1

Sam was sexually abused in the basement of his home by a family acquaintance, though his memories about this experience, which began when he was in elementary school and lasted through middle school, came back to him only in adulthood. He was sodomized and forced to perform oral sex on the perpetrator. When he began to recall his victimization, he described how “weird” it felt to him:

“I know that this was happening to me. Even now I can feel something in my mouth and I can feel pain in my rectum. But all I can see is the dryer. It’s as if I wasn’t there at all. I just see that white dryer.”

Case 2

Serena’s father has been sexually and physically abusing her “for as long as she can remember.” She has always had complete and vivid recall of her victimization, which included vaginal and anal rape and severe physical beatings that resulted in numerous hospitalizations. She has been permanently scarred by her father’s assaults and sustained permanent internal injuries. She described her father’s sexual assaults in the following way:

“I remember him coming into my bedroom at night. It would be very dark and I knew he was in the room. And then it all goes blank. The next thing I know it’s morning and my sheets are stained, sometimes bloody, and I am sometimes very sore “down there,” but I don’t know exactly what happened.”

Critically discuss some of the challenges faced by forensic social workers when working with children (in a culture that believes children never tell the truth) who have been sexually assaulted. Demonstrate skills, which forensic social workers can utilize in the quest for justice on behalf of these two clients.

Question 2

“Dissociation can develop into a conditioned response to any stressful situation. Thus, what served effectively as a problem-solving strategy in childhood can become a debilitating condition that may seriously impede healthy adult functioning” (Sutton, 2004, p. 24).

Examine the interviewing skills needed to work with individuals who have experienced some traumatic experiences. Use examples to support your views.

Question 3

If a traumatic experience defies a child's ability to understand, categorize, and assimilate, and if accommodation poses a threat too great, memory for traumatic events may be impaired . . . In the absence of [psychic] structure (i.e., schematic understanding), which provides organization and meaning, traumatic experience cannot be represented or encoded in any mature meaningful way. Thus, while fragmented sensory impressions, stereotyped actions, physiological reactions, images, and affects may be loosely retained, these are all "pre-representational." The integrated memory is lost to repression (Reviere, 1996, p. 38)

Analyze this statement in relation to the skills, knowledge and principles guiding forensic social work.

Question 4

Critically discuss the guidelines for interviewer behavior, communication and demeanor throughout the investigative interview. Use examples to support your views.

Question 5

Male clients may have an especially difficult time coming to terms with having been victimized, particularly when this involves sexual abuse, since it so violates culturally defined expectations about what it means to be a man (Hunter, 1990).

Critically discuss the statement. Use examples to support your views

Question 6

You serve as a social worker in an agency that provides counseling and other services to low-income families and children. Over the course of the last several weeks, you have been visiting a family of six: a heterosexual couple and their four children. The B. family has numerous needs but, together, you decided to work toward the goal of finding better paying and more stable employment.

In the first meeting, you learned that Mr. and Mrs. B. are members of a

religious organization that prohibits the use of medicines, surgical procedures, and forms of modern medical care. As you chatted with 8-year-old Ruth during a recent visit, you noticed a tumor on her abdomen. You mentioned it to Mrs. B. who said that the entire family and other members of their religious group were praying daily for Ruth's health. She expected their prayers would shortly be answered. When you next visited the family about a week later, you observed that the tumor was much larger and appeared darker in color.

- a) Identify the specific ethical principles from the NASW Code that might apply in this situation.
- b) Describe the course of action that a forensic social worker can take in order to solve the problem situation in this case.