

Spring 1998 Comprehensive Examination

You must answer one question for each of the following areas:

- I. Counseling Theory and Application**
- II. Research and Evaluation**
- III. Individual/Group Assessment**
- IV. Students choice of Career, Group, or Professional Issues.**

Answer each question in a blue examination book. DO NOT answer more than one question in the same book. Be sure to label the front of each blue examination book with the question number and your ss# only.

You will have four hours for the entire exam (*one hour for each question*). Please manage your time accordingly. Good Luck!

2.

Question I
Counseling - Theory and Application

A) Susan is a 17 year old junior high school student. She is the youngest of three; having two older brothers. Currently, Susan's parents are separated and in the middle of divorce negotiations. Mrs. X has wanted a divorce for several years but had been waiting for her youngest, Susan, to complete high school.

Over the past few months, Susan's teachers have noticed that she has been rather quiet in class and her usual high performance has been declining. Susan appears to be having difficulty concentrating and appears rather lethargic. One of her teachers referred Susan to speak to you.

B) Susan is a 19-year-old college freshman. She is the youngest of three; having two older brothers. Currently, Susan's parents are separated and in the middle of divorce negotiations. Mrs. X has wanted a divorce for several years but had been waiting for her youngest, Susan, to complete college.

Over the past few months, Susan's roommates have noticed that she has been rather quiet at night and watches TV instead of doing her homework. Susan appears to be having difficulty concentrating and appears rather lethargic. One of her roommates suggested that she speak with you.

1) Identify and discuss the developmental and clinical issues, which you may want to explore further with Susan.

2) Describe whom you will target for intervention. Please include: a discussion of your rationale for your choices, description of **two** major counseling theories with specific reference to skills, techniques, and strategies which you might employ.

Question I
Counseling - Theory and Application

This question is for students working with preadolescent populations
(you should have taken Applied Counseling with Professor Pheeney)

The following voice-mail message was left for you over February vacation:

Hello, this is Mr. Lorna Tetrault speaking. My children will be starting in your school after vacation and I'm very worried about their adjustment. There are five of them. Scott is in the 6th grade, formerly a good student now failing three subjects. Todd is ten and in the 4th grade. He is very bright and always studying in his room. He is such a good boy, the perfect child. Tonya is eight and in the 2nd grade. She has a lot of trouble with reading and received help in her other school. I hope it can continue here. Oh, and she's having awful headaches recently. She just had her eyes examined and they're O.K.

Oh, I almost forgot the twins, Teddy and Tommy. Teddy has spoken very little over the past few months and both children are very difficult to manage.

You know my husband died recently and I tried to make it on my own. But I'm not trained for anything and it was difficult with the children. So when my mother-in-law invited us to come live with her--Well, she has a big house and she's not getting any younger, so it's helpful both ways. I do have a part-time job - mother's house at Friendly's. I'm home after two. I think I'm going to need some help. Would you please call me some afternoon this week? Thank you.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS HERE AND HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT RESOLVING THEM?

Question II
Research and Evaluation

You have been instructed by your supervisor to submit a Grant Application for a \$20,000 award offered by the ACA for counselors who are recent graduates. The topic can be anything directly related to counseling and can be basic or applied in nature.

The grant application requires you to write a proposal based on the five standard sections commonly found in a journal article. In well-organized fashion create a hypothetical (but pragmatic) research proposal using the format of a journal article. Demonstrate that you can develop a topic with appropriate methodology and be sure to include the appropriate sections.

Question III
Assessment

Individual and group assessment procedures are employed for a wide variety of purposes, including:

- (1) to measure achievement:
- (2) to assess personality;
- and (3) to assist with career guidance.

Write an essay which discusses the use of tests for each of the above purposes. You may make reference to specific test instruments, if you like. Be sure to discuss how information from each type of test could be utilized by counselors in a multi-cultural setting.

Question IV

(choose only one of the following three questions as your fourth answer)

(1) Group Counseling

You have decided to co-lead some groups for students in transition -- either moving from junior high to high school or from high school to college. Your supervisor has asked that you provide some information to support this request.

What is your rationale for running such a group? What are the goals of the group? Specifically, what are the group parameters: length of time, number of weeks, expected outcomes, and type of group? Any special considerations?

Please be thorough.

(2) Career Counseling

As part of your role as a human resource counselor, you are responsible for providing outplacement assistance to any company employees who lose their jobs due to downsizing or technical restructuring (structurally unemployed).

Select one of the scenarios below and describe in as much detail as you can the process you would undertake to assist this person in finding a new job.

1. A 47 year old Hispanic female, sole supporter of three children who lost her job because her department became computerized, and she had no computer skills.
2. A 52 year old design engineer who lost his job after the company sold his division to another company.
3. A 22 year old high school graduate who lost her job because the manufacturing division in which she worked closed. The work she once did will now be done in Malaysia.

(3) Professional Standards

You have just been hired as a counselor in the job of your dreams. Your supervisor is extremely burnt out and has not updated any policies or procedures in 15 years. You mention to your supervisor that you have just taken a course in Legal and ethical issues and would be happy to update the staff and develop policy and proper paperwork.

In a well organized essay identify the major legal and ethical issues any modern counselor should be familiar with and then show how this knowledge would be applied.