



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

END OF TERM EXAMINATION (AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2023)

CAMPUS: ONLINE

DEPARTMENT: PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE CODE: PMFT 712

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED ETHICS AND LAW

LECTURER: DR. KIMANI GITHONGO

DATE: APRIL 2024

INSTRUCTIONS

- **Read all questions carefully before attempting.**
- **Write your student number on the answer booklet provided.**
- **Section A is Compulsory**
- **Answer any TWO questions in Section B**

SECTION A: COMPULSORY- (20 Marks)

QUESTION 1

Read the case study below and answer all the questions in this section.

A Marital and Family Therapist saw a couple for six sessions to address issues in their marriage. The therapist also saw their 8-year old son at the request of both parents to help the child cope with their arguments and frequent separations. When the couple decided that the marriage was unsalvageable, one of the spouses requested the therapist, and the therapist agreed to be a witness and produce the therapy records to support an argument for custody of the son. In the therapist's evidence to the court, the therapist indicated her preference as to the appropriate parent who would be better off to have the custody of the son if the parents divorced, further qualifying her preference on the basis of the religious status of that one parent.

- a. Discuss three ethical concerns that this case study raises. **(6 Marks)**
- b. Explain three ethical duties owed to each of the parents and the child in this case by the therapist. **(6 marks)**
- c. Examine two ways as to how the therapist would have ethically dealt with the one parent who requested for assistance but covertly wanted the therapist to aid in getting the custody order. **(4 marks)**
- d. Illustrate two major conflicts that the therapist exhibited in providing the evidence in respect of the custody of the son in the event of divorce. **(4 marks)**

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION - (20 MARKS)

QUESTION 2

- a. Describe three ethical dangers inherent in therapist triangulation in the process of a couple therapy. **(6 marks)**
- b. Analyze two ways in which a therapist may handle power imbalances in a family therapy involving parents and their three children aged 25, 18 and 12. **(4 marks)**

QUESTION 3

- a. Explore two aspects that makes culture complicate ethical treatment of families. **(4 Marks)**
- b. Evaluate three inherent challenges that therapists encounter in the definition of the presenting problem by members of a family. **(6 Marks)**

QUESTION 4

- a. Explain any two strategies you would use to ethically manage the process of informed consent when treating couples and families. **(4 Marks)**
- b. Articulate any three ways in which a therapist may deal with the issue of individual secrets in a family therapy. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION 5

- a. Discuss three emerging areas in the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy within the African context that may pose serious ethical challenges to a therapist. **(6 Marks)**
- b. Assess one ethical duty and one legal duty for a therapist pertaining to a couple when the therapist is only attending one partner who has disclosed of a positive result on HIV/AIDS after a test and a negative result for the other partner who is not a client. **(4 Marks)**