

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK
FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER, MAY 2019

TITLE OF PAPER:	SEXUALITY, SEXUAL DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
COURSE CODE:	SWK 326
TIME ALLOWED:	TWO (2) HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS QUESTIONS	1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) 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

Sehl (1998) suggested that “social workers who feel shame or guilt related to their own sexuality will be ill-equipped to effectively manage sexual topics in psychotherapy, perhaps negating or avoiding content that makes them uncomfortable but may be central to the client’s story.” Discuss the impact of this statement.

QUESTION 2

Identify ethical considerations and/or best practices for social work practitioners working closely with clients who have been victimized by sexual violence and abuse, and/or are struggling with sexual identity issues or trying to cope with atypical and sometimes criminal sexual interests. Use examples to support your views.

QUESTION 3

“Given that social work education gives little attention to practice in the area of sexuality, social workers’ interactions with clients in this area are at risk of reflecting and perpetuating heteronormative norms and assumptions” (McCave, Sheperd, & Winter, 2014).

- a) Describe the impact of repressive and sexist norms that remain relatively unchallenged, contributing to what many refer to as heteronormative culture.
\5marks
- b) How can social workers use anti-oppressive practice in addressing sexuality issues with clients?
\5marks
- c) Suggest ways in which the area of sexuality can be given sufficient attention in the social work curricula.
\5marks
- d) Discuss the importance of becoming comfortable discussing issues related to sexuality with others (i.e. clients)
\5marks
- e) Why is important for social workers to be able to analyze relevant policies and their influence of human sexuality?
\5marks
- f) How important is it for social workers to be able to integrate theoretical knowledge with practice techniques when working with clients who present

with sexual issues or advocating for vulnerable populations? \8marks

QUESTION 4

Discuss critically why it is important for social workers to increase their self awareness regarding:

- a) Personal sexual identity /5marks
- b) The evolution and maintenance of personal sexual values, biases and attitudes (e.g., through religious, cultural, familial, and peer influences). /5marks
- c) The influence and compatibility of personal sexual values and attitudes with previous and current sexual behaviors. /5marks
- d) Explore personal reactions to the range and variety of sexual needs and expressions /5marks
- e) Understand human sexual development within the life-cycle framework including:
 - i). Physiological and psychological similarities between males and females.
 - ii). The range of sexual behaviors expressed /13marks

QUESTION 5

Case example: challenging heterosexism and sexism

You are on placement in a residential unit for young people and have been asked to run a series of four group sessions lasting for an hour and half each, on the topic of sexuality, with four young women aged 14 years old who live in the unit.

- a) As part of your planning, think about your value base and how you are going to practice in an anti-discriminatory way. \5marks
- b) Write down a list of things that you would need to be aware of and do that would help you create and promote a positive, inclusive and empowering atmosphere for the group. \5marks
- c) Why is important for a social worker to understand the dynamics of childhood sexual abuse and their effects on the sexual behavior and level of intimacy experienced in adulthood. \5marks

- d) Discuss the importance of understanding sexuality in terms of reproduction, intimacy, sensuality, identity and sexualization. \5marrks
- e) How would your knowledge of sexual needs and expressions of sexually oppressed groups such as persons with disabilities, LBGTQIAP individuals, rape and incest survivors enrich your talk with these young women. \13 marks

QUESTION 6

Weeks (2003) is of the view that “control or lack of it, has historically been a significant aspect of women’s experiences of their sexuality from the threat and fear of sexual violence to lack of control over their own bodies in relation to reproductive rights.” Discuss.