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THE OPEN UNIVERSITY
SRI LANKA
06 SEP 2023
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EXAMINATION DIVISION

07 SEP 2023
EXAMINATION DIVISION

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELLING
2022/2023 – SEMESTER II —FINAL EXAMINATION

BSC (HONS) IN PSYCHOLOGY
PLU 3204 - ETHICS IN PSYCHOLOGY - LEVEL 03
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DURATION: 02 HOURS

DATE: 07.09.2023 TIME: 9.30 am- 11.30 am

INDEX NO: .....

SECTION 2: STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTIONS (60 MARKS)

Choose 04 out of the 06 questions given below and answer using the provided answer sheets.

2.1 "Privacy and confidentiality are important pillars of ethical psychological practice".

a) Define "privacy" and "confidentiality" and describe how they differ from each other. *(5 marks)*

b) Describe two reasons why as a practitioner it is important to maintain "privacy" and "confidentiality". *(5 marks)*

c) Describe two conditions under which mental health practitioners can breach confidentiality. *(5 marks)*

2.2 "Culture plays a significant role in psychology research and practice".

a) Briefly describe four of Hofstede's cultural dimensions. *(8 marks)*

Describe how culture affects the following two areas.

i. Informed consent *(3.5 marks)*

ii. Counselling Style *(3.5 marks)*

2.3 "Internet-mediated research (IMR) is becoming increasingly popular in psychology".

a) Name two ethical concerns that are associated with IMR. *(5 marks)*

b) What steps can a researcher take to ensure their participant can withdraw from an IMR study during or after data collection? *(5 marks)*

c) Briefly describe two ways to maximise benefits in an IMR setting. *(5 marks)*

2.4 "Ethical principles guide psychological practice and research".

a) Name and define the four ethical principles put forth by Beauchamp and Childress. *(8 marks)*

b) Describe three reasons why ethical standards are essential in psychological research. *(7 marks)*

2.5 The Stanford Prison Experiment is a highly debated study.

The Stanford Prison Experiment was a research study conducted by Phillip Zimbardo (1973) about behaviour of humans under extreme situations (being in a prison as either a guard or a prisoner). This research investigated a scenario which allowed behaviours exhibited by prisoners and guards in prisons. The sample included 24 middle-class, white male college students who were placed in a simulated prison environment created at Stanford University. The selected students scored high on assessments of stability, maturity and low on crime involvement. The researchers randomly assigned the participants to either be guards or prisoners and financially compensated all of them. It was reported that the participants quickly adapted to their assigned roles. The guards started becoming harsh and cruel towards the prisoners. The prisoners were forced to earn their privileges with good behaviour. This stressful situation caused the prisoners to become passive, silent and obedient. Some prisoners also developed learned helplessness. Few prisoners also exhibited extreme emotional reaction which resulted in terminating the study only after six days. After the experiment was terminated, the participants were debriefed.

a) Name the <u>five (05) general principles</u> included in the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. *(5 marks)*

b) What are the ethical issues you notice in this study? Analyse based on ethical principles and standards provided by the American Psychological Association. *(10 marks)*

2.6 It is important for mental health professionals to uphold ethical principles in their practice.

Saman decided to go in for counselling as he was feeling very overwhelmed in a new position in his company. He had fought to obtain a senior position in the company and was looking forward to the extra responsibility and duties. However, since taking on the new role 6 months ago, he has become entangled in a situation which could harm his reputation. He has been feeling tired all the time, pessimistic and unmotivated about what he could achieve. In addition, in his first session, he admits that he has not been eating or sleeping well and was experiencing rapid mood changes and says that at times he feels like "ending it all." Saman mentions to the counsellor that he does not want anyone in the organisation to know about his counselling sessions.

Sari is the counsellor attached to Saman's organisation, is a recent graduate and has not had much experience in dealing with clients with Saman's presenting problem. She decides to take the case on as a learning opportunity. As Sari has just read a book on Narrative Therapy (NT), Sari decides to introduce these techniques with little explanation of procedure or the possible outcomes. Sari is not aware of the effectiveness of NT in dealing with Saman's issues but is quite enthusiastic to experiment with different techniques with her client. When Saman comes back for his next visit, he says he feels more agitated and distressed however Sari convinces Saman to continue the intervention for one more session. Just to clear some doubts that have arisen, Sari brings up Saman's case while eating lunch with the other counsellor who then remembers that they should be more careful when discussing client cases.

a) Analyse the scenario and explain which ethical principles and standards have been violated in this scenario. Use examples from the scenario to illustrate your response. *(10 marks)*

b) Describe <u>two (02)</u> strategies that Sari could follow in order to avoid malpractice. *(5 marks)*

----------END OF QUESTION PAPER----------