

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

INTEGRATED AND REFLECTIVE
SOCIAL WORK
SWK 404/E

DEGREE EXAMINATIONS
MAIN EXAM

MAY/JUNE 2025

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Time: 3 Hours
Subject: SWK 404E
Marks: 100

This paper consists of 6 pages including the cover page

Internal Examiners

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INSTRUCTIONS

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SECTION ONE: EAST LONDON STUDENTS ONLY

1. SECTION A: ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS
2. SECTION B: CHOOSE ONE QUESTION
3. IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO WRITE CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY.

SECTION TWO: ALICE STUDENTS ONLY

1. SECTION A: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS
2. SECTION B: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS
3. IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO WRITE CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

SECTION ONE: EAST LONDON STUDENTS ONLY

SECTION A: ANSWER BOTH QUESTION 1 AND 2

QUESTION 1:

Read the case study below and answer the questions that follow:

Case Background:

Miss A is a 15-year-old girl who was called for a family meeting where she was told that she had to be married to a 48-year-old man in the nearest village. She was told that she has to drop out of school and be a housewife. She was informed that the man has cows and sheep and that he could take good care of her as he was once appointed to the Community Police Forum and did well.

She was further informed that according to the AmaXhosa culture, that it is called “*ukuthwala*” and the family believes in it as a cultural practice. Miss A insisted that she wanted to continue with her education and she does not want to be married because she wants to marry after graduating and a man of her choice.

She was forced to marry the man and was finally defeated and had to succumb to marrying the man.

The marriage was not nice for Miss A as she suffered from physical abuse with the husband telling her that she is a wife and she has to be submissive and respect the man as a head of the house. The husband demanded that they make children. Miss A went to your office and you were assigned as the social worker.

- 1.1. Critically reflect on how your own cultural background and personal beliefs may influence your perceptions of Miss A and the husband. **[5 Marks]**
- 1.2. Explain how your professional training will impact your ability to provide culturally competent support to Miss A and the husband. **[5 Marks]**
- 1.3. Social Workers engage in an ongoing critical reflection to examine their assumptions, biases and power dynamics and to promote ethically, culturally responsive and empowering practice with clients from diverse backgrounds.

Develop a critical reflection plan for social work practice with Miss A. In your critical reflection plan indicate how your experiences, background and professional knowledge can lead to a professionally and ethically sound intervention.

[10 Marks]

[TOTAL QUESTION 1 = 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

Read the case study below and answer the questions that follow:

Case background

Mr S is a 20- year- old second year male student who stays in one of the university residences in town. Mr S seems to be lonely and uncomfortable at all times. He reports that he is a Zulu man who comes from KwaZulu Natal and he has been suffering from physical abuse and emotional abuse from the fellow male students. He states that he has been put aside by other male students who are AmaXhosa as they say that he is a small boy. They say that he is a boy because a man is someone who has undergone traditional male circumcision in the mountain and that if he did not do that they cannot stay and talk to him. His performance at school dropped and he considers dropping out as he lost confidence and regrets coming to study in the Eastern Cape. He feels discriminated and not welcomed. He cannot even participate in class as he doubts he is a real human being.

- 1.1. Using the Ecological Systems Theory, critically reflect on the factors that might have influenced the behaviours in the above case study. **[20 Marks]**
- 1.2. As a social worker, how would you use critical reflection and integration to create an intervention plan for Mr S? **[15 Marks]**
- 1.3. How would you integrate African theories to understand the factors that might have influenced the attitudes of the fellow male students towards Mr S? **[15 Marks]**

[TOTAL QUESTION 2 = 50 MARKS]

SECTION B: ANSWER ONE QUESTION

QUESTION 3:

- 3.1. As a Social Worker employed by the Department of Social Development you need to understand the Framework for Social Welfare Services. Critically discuss with examples the transition from the residual approach to the Developmental approach.

[TOTAL QUESTION 3 = 30 MARKS]

OR

QUESTION 4:

- 1.1. Provide with examples a critical discussion of the purposes and elements of the Developmental Approach. In your discussion, indicate whether or not the purposes and elements are functional in the South African context.

[TOTAL QUESTION 4 = 30 MARKS]

SECTION TWO: ALICE STUDENTS ONLY

1. SECTION A: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS
2. SECTION B: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS
3. IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO WRITE CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

SECTION A

Question 1

Read the excerpt below and answer the following questions.

A social worker is working with a coastal community that is experiencing frequent flooding and storm damage due to climate change. The community is predominantly low-income, with many residents relying on fishing and tourism for livelihood. Frequent natural disasters have led to displacement, loss of poverty and trauma for many community members.

- A. How might the social worker use the global agenda to inform the practice. **(10)**
- B. How did the White Paper (1997) for Social Welfare influence development social work practice. **(15)**

[25 Marks]

Question 2

Use the Afrocentric paradigm to demonstrate the decolonization of the social work curriculum. In your discussion, indicate how ethical guiding principles, values, skills and roles used during the helping relationship could be decolonized. **(25)**

Question 3

Discuss the major challenges in implementing the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997). In your discussion highlight policies and programmes to support the White Paper's objectives. **(25)**

Question 4

Evaluate the progress towards achieving the first ten Sustainable Developmental Goals.

(25)

SECTION B

Question 1

Critically discuss the concept of reflexivity in social work practice, including its theoretical underpinnings, and practical applications. **(25)**

Question 2

Ready the case presented below and answer the question.

Sophie, a newly qualified social worker, was assigned to support Maria, a 35-year-old woman experiencing domestic abuse. Maria disclosed emotional and physical abuse from her partner during an initial visit. Sophie was expected to carry out a risk assessment and develop a safety plan. Sophie arrived late to the scheduled visit and rushed the session due to other commitments. She conducted the risk assessment in the presence of Maria's 12-year-old child, breaching confidentiality and potentially endangering Maria further. Sophie failed to follow up for two weeks despite the high-risk indicators. She also used judgmental language in her report, stating Maria "refused to take action," without considering the complexity of abuse dynamics.

Use Gibbs' Reflective Cycle Model to address the above matter. **(25)**

Question 3

3.1 Discuss the challenges and opportunities of incorporating effective relationships with clients and colleagues in social work practice. **(15)**

3.2 With different narratives, indicate how social workers can use reflection in action to improve their practice. **(10)**