

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

PSY 529

MAIN EXAMINATION

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2022

TIME : 3 HOURS
SUBJECT : PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
PAPER : PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
MARKS : 100

This paper consists of 3 pages including the cover page.

Internal Examiners

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INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper consists of two sections. Section A and Section B
2. **Section A:** Answer Question 1 and Question 2.
3. **Section B:** In Questions 3, 4 and 5, you have a choice. Answer **ANY 2** questions

SECTION A

QUESTION 1 (Compulsory)

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow;

"In a mixed class of Coloured, Black, White and Indian Grade 10 and 11 learners at one Private School in East London, South Africa, Mr. Alexandra organized a psychological assessment for learners who demonstrated learning barriers. Most underperforming learners were from the Black community. During the administration of the psychological assessment, it emerged that:

- *The psychological assessment was the same for all learners.*
- *The assessment-takers (i.e. learners) kept on asking for clarity on certain items as the answer booklets had missing pages.*
- *Some of the assessment-takers had to wait for 30 minutes (while others had already begun with the assessment) as there were not enough answer sheets.*
- *The hired assessment assistants demonstrated unprofessionalism by not knowing which of the booklets with questions should be distributed first.*
- *Two of the assessment-takers reported to have taken anxiolytics, since a month ago, they were robbed on their way back home from school.*
- *Nombulelo, a 15-year-old psychological assessment-taker, had visual impairment and was on a wheelchair.*

Three weeks later, Mr. Alexandra told the learners that the only race that performed better and eligible to follow Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Accounting is White. Coloured, Black and Indian learners felt despondent and anonymously wrote to the Daily Dispatch to report that Mr. Alexandra's arrangement was biased.

1.1. Are there any shortcomings by Mr. Alexandra in undertaking this psychological assessment for Grade 10 and 11 learners? Elaborate under the following headings :

1.1.1 Ethics (10)

1.1.2 Reliability and Validity (15)

1.2 As a prospective Psychological Assessment Practitioner, which factors would you have considered to ensure that all learners are accommodated (10)

/35/

QUESTION 2 Compulsory

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow :

Paul is a 43- year male. He has various academic degrees, is an attorney by profession and works for a large firm. By all accounts, he is relatively successful in his work, but feels

that he is stuck and has no real career prospects. He has divorced approximately five years ago and has two sons, aged 4 and 7, whom he sees on a regular basis. He has extreme feelings of guilt about how the divorce may have adversely affected his children. He has had multiple sexual relationships since the divorce, but these only lasted for a couple of months at a time as he has difficulty committing to a relationship for fear that it may not succeed. He has no financial, work, or relationship problems that are out of the ordinary. Recently, he has suffered from insomnia, has lost his appetite, has difficulty concentrating, and generally feels tired and demotivated. As a result, he went to see the doctor, thinking that the changes in his functioning were due to stress. During the clinical interview, the following facts, signs and symptoms emerged:

- *His maternal uncle may also suffer from depression, but never received any treatment.*
- *Paul himself frequently feels down without any apparent reason.*
- *Typically, when he feels down he is also tired and demotivated; however, he forces himself to get out of bed and go to work during the week. During weekends, he often remains in bed for the whole of the weekend.*
- *Although he feels tired, he has fallen asleep and wakes up early in the morning. According to him, this is because he has difficulty 'switching his brain off' and he often just lies in bed thinking. The problem is, however, that these thoughts are mainly negative.*
- *He describes himself as being lazy and prone to procrastination, but on further inquiry admitted to a lack of concentration as well.*
- *There have been times that he has contemplated suicide, but out of a sense of responsibility and duty to his sons, he has never acted on these thoughts.*

2.1 Identify and discuss two types of psychological assessment relevant to assist the Clinicians in helping Paul to cope following his divorce. (10)

2.2 In your opinion, is Paul's 7year old- child ready to enter Grade 1? Elaborate by using knowledge acquired from Psychological Assessment Module. (15)

/25/

SECTION B

NB: Answer any 2 Questions from 3,4 and 5.

Question 3 [20]

The increasingly sophisticated applications of computer technology have revolutionized all aspects of the field of testing and assessment. Thus, the University of Fort Hare utilized computer technology to assess students' personalities during the Masters selection following the COVID-19 outbreak.

3.1 What are the advantages and disadvantages of computer testing when considering the Use of Assessments, the reliability and validity of tests, the reporting and integration of results, test security ? (20)

Question 4 [20]

Administering psychological assessment measures is important, and to achieve valid and reliable results, the practitioner should be qualified.

4.1 Discuss the most important aspects of preparation that the practitioner should take prior to the assessment session. (20)

Question 5 [20]

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow:

“Elizabeth is 45-years-old and in the past 12 years has changed careers from being a school educator and electrical engineer to an attorney. In all these careers, she would stay for a short period and complain of boredom..

5.1 Why do you think career counselling assessment could have been administered for Elizabeth? (10)

5.2 As a prospective practitioner in the field of psychological assessment, which types of personality tests would you recommend to help Elizabeth from whopping from one career to the next. Elaborate. (10)

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Total =100