



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

END OF TERM EXAMINATION (SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2024)

CAMPUS: ONLINE

DEPARTMENT: PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE CODE: MCP 509

COURSE TITLE: [PROFESSIONAL, ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN COUNSELLING](#)

LECTURER: DR. KIMANI GITHONGO

DATE: DECEMBER 2024

INSTRUCTIONS

- **Read all questions carefully before attempting.**
- **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.

Dr. Emma is a licensed psychologist who has been treating a 16-year-old client, Sarah, for anxiety and depression over the past six months. Recently, Sarah confided in Dr. Emma that she has been engaging in self-harming behaviors and has had occasional thoughts of suicide, though she has no immediate plans of committing suicide. Sarah insists that Dr. Emma keeps this information confidential, as she does not want her parents to know and believes they would respond negatively. Dr. Emma is aware that Sarah's parents are very strict and would likely react poorly to such news. However, Dr. Emma also feels concerned for Sarah's safety and is uncertain whether keeping this information confidential aligns with her ethical obligations. Dr. Emma must decide how to proceed while considering Sarah's best interests, ethical standards, and legal requirements.

- a. Using the ethical decision-making model, describe three steps Dr. Emma should take to consider her options and reach a resolution. (6 marks)
- b. Evaluate three possible therapeutic interventions that Dr Emma may employ to deal with the suicidal ideation. (6 marks)
- c. Explain in two ways how Dr. Emma should balance her ethical duty to protect Sarah's confidentiality with her obligation to ensure client safety. (4 marks)
- d. **Discuss** two ways in which Dr. Emma may integrate spirituality with psychological interventions. (4 marks).

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

QUESTION 2

- a. Examine two ethical ways that therapists can advertise their services. (4 marks)
- b. Analyze any three ethical challenges that the conduct of online sessions may pose during therapy. (6 marks)

QUESTION 3

- a. Assess two cardinal requirements that therapists should make clear at the beginning of treatment when offering psychological services at the request of a third-party. (4 marks)
- b. Articulate three aspects that make the observance of professional ethics key to successful therapy. (6 marks)

QUESTION 4

- a. Discuss the importance of any three client's records that are crucial in therapy. (6 marks)

- b. Dr. Smith has received a client, John, who is struggling with substance abuse issues. Although she has general training in counseling, she lacks specific expertise in addiction counseling. Explore two ethical considerations that she should consider in this situation. (4 marks)

QUESTION 5

- a. Illustrate any three test factors that a psychologist should be aware of while conducting a psychological assessment to maximize the chances of producing a competent evaluation. (6 marks)
- b. Discuss two ways that a psychologist can use to navigate potential conflict of interest to maintain professional boundaries with a client. (4 marks)