



**PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**END OF TERM EXAMINATION FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
DEGREE IN MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY (MARCH-AUGUST 2017)**

**CAMPUS: ROYSAMBU**

**DEPARTMENT: COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY**

**COURSE CODE: PMFT 733:**

**COURSE CONTENT: FAMILY VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA**

**DATE: AUGUST 2017**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Read all questions carefully before attempting.**
- **Write your student number on the answer booklet provided.**
- **Section A is Compulsory**
- **Answer any TWO questions in Section B**

**SECTION A: COMPULSORY**

**(30 Marks)**

**Question One:**

- a) Using examples derived from a postmodern family framework, explain two reasons why a contemporary family therapist should be familiar with the concept of 'postmodernism' (4mks)
- b) 'Domestic violence is a learned behaviour.' Support this statement using one theory of domestic violence. Illustrate your answers with a relevant example (3mks).
- c) Explain with an example one ethical dilemma that domestic/family violence counsellors are likely to face in the course of their practice (3mks)
- d) Anna, a seven year old female client, is brought to you for therapy by her aunt, who was recommended to bring Anna to therapy by her pediatrician. Anna and her brother were removed from their biological parents' home due to severe neglect. Anna's aunt (who is the current guardian) also suspects that

Anna was a victim of physical abuse by her biological parents. Since being removed from her biological parents' home, Anna has expressed confusion about her living situation. Her main presenting problem, however, is her low self-esteem.

- i. Referring to the extract, explain the type of trauma that this client could be experiencing (2mks).
- ii. Describe two adverse emotions that Anna could be experiencing and explain how you would use Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (TF-CBT) to assist her in overcoming them (8mks)
- iii. Conceptualize this case using Persona Centred theoretical formulation (6mks).

## **SECTION B**

### **Answer Any TWO Questions**

#### **Question Two:**

Ms. B came for an assessment of her two children, who were 5 and 10 years old, after a long history of exposure to domestic violence and physical abuse by their father who is now in jail. During the assessment the family was asked to describe a typical day in their household. The 10-year reports that it is her job to get herself and her little sister ready for school and on the bus. Ms. B states that she is too tired in the mornings and is often still asleep when her daughters leave for school. Ms. B prepares dinner for the children when they return home but has difficulty implementing a homework or bedtime routine. She states, "The kids have been through so much, I just let them stay up as late as they watch TV. Their father never let them watch and yelled at them all the time. I don't want to yell at them, and I think the TV helps them get to sleep." When the kids are asked to describe their feelings about their father, they are both non-responsive and they gaze into space with teary eyes.

- a) Describe **two** techniques other than clinical interview that the counsellor could use to obtain information about the father from the children (4mks)
- b) The traumatic effects of the domestic violence have negatively impacted the client's parenting behaviour. Support this statement and describe **two** ways in which the client's parenting style could negatively impact the children's personality development (5mks).
- c) Explain how you would assist this client to change her current situation using **two** techniques of solution focused brief therapy (SFBT) (6mks)

#### **Question Three: (15mks)**

Read the following case and answer the questions that follow:

Iris seemed like an epitome of intelligence and strength. She graduated from one of the prominent schools in the country and was a consistent deans' lister. She was an active member and officer of a famous chorale in her university. She went to the United States and Malaysia to sing and after coming back she found herself

performing in musicals, gigs, and events. She was even one of the top 24 in a prestigious talent show. She belonged to a middle class family so it seemed like she needed not to worry about anything.

When Iris was first introduced to Pierre, she was actually in a relationship with a much older Australian divorcee who had two kids. Given the long distance relationship and age difference, Iris thought it was a wise decision for her to choose Pierre and end her relationship with her Australian boyfriend since Pierre seemed to easily fulfill her needs at that time. Everything seemed to point at the right direction. So despite her parents' strong disapproval of their relationship, she packed up and went with Pierre.

Barely three months in their relationship, Pierre slapped Iris. Pierre did it because, according to him, he just wanted her to "feel the pain he was feeling." Alice forgave him by reasoning 'after all I had hurt him.' A year after she had given birth to their first child, the slapping escalated to kicking, punching, pulling her hair, dragging her across the floor and verbally abusing her often in front of their son. When she was four months pregnant with their second child, Pierre hurt Iris. She got multiple injuries in her arms, legs, thighs, and ribs. She busted her lip and broke her finger when she was dragged by her legs across the floor. Months later, in the middle of the night, because of an argument, he hit her on the head and slammed her skull on the wall and on the bedroom door which kept her from leaving the house for days to heal her bruised and swollen face. Despite what she got, she always came up with a reason to excuse Pierre's behaviour. 'May be I am doing things to provoke him.' 'I know he loves me.' She often comforted herself.

Iris did not have any family or friends to turn to. The only person she confided about her ordeals was Pierre's mom, who, she later learned, had also suffered similar abuse from her new husband. Iris realized that Pierre's apparent disrespect for women seemed to stem from his mother's being submissive to her husband, Pierre's step-father. Pierre had also suffered verbal and physical abuse from his step father while his mother just stood by.

Iris thought she deserved such maltreatment from her husband because she was sexually abused by her granduncle when she was seven.

Then there was her husband, was her husband's blatant womanizing which she could not accept. He had sexual relations with seven women and the last straw was a 19-year old girl whom he refused to break up with despite Iris' persistent request. They met almost every day and spent hours in motels. Iris felt that she was enslaved to take care of the children. She was not given money and allowed to go out with friends.

It was only in January of 2017 that she reconnected with her friend Evelyn with whom she confided what she was going through. Evelyn kept in touch with her and gave her emotional support. With Evelyn's strong emotional support, she finally left Pierre. With her two children, she sneaked out of their residence in May 2017. The ordeal left her greatly traumatised.

- a) Describe **two** forms of domestic/family violence that are evident in this case (2mks).

- b) Explain **two** possible psychological basis of Pierre's behaviour (4mks)
- c) Assume Iris is your client, explain how you would assist her to overcome the trauma associated with this experience using **three** Cognitive Behavioral Therapy techniques. Illustrate your answers with relevant excerpts from the above case (9mks)

**Question Four:** (15mks)

- a) Using relevant examples, discuss **three** psychosocial traumatic effects of domestic/family violence on the victims ( 9mks)
- b) Discuss **three** appropriate domains in family trauma assessment for children explaining their relevance in child trauma diagnosis (6mks).

**Question Five**

Read the following case and answer the questions that follow

On 29 July 2006, Rafael Dangond 33 aged years and Lissette Ochoa aged 29 years attended a wedding party in the exclusive Country Club in the city of Barranquilla, Colombia. Dangond became aggressive after his wife Lissette was invited to dance by a group of friends who had traveled from Venezuela to attend the wedding, among them a young male who danced with her. While Ochoa was dancing, some of the wedding guests recount seeing Dangond sitting alone at the table. He later walked towards the bathroom and then came out with reddened eyes, presumably caused by alcohol or drugs. Apparently, Dangond became angry and jealous.

Once she returned to her seat, Dangond immediately ordered his wife to exit the event and, once outside, Dangond began battering her and pushed her into their car where the beating continued at approximately 2:00 AM. He drove the car erratically around the city while constantly hitting her for more than two hours. When they arrived home at approximately 4:00 AM, the violence continued. Ochoa desperately locked herself in a bathroom and used a cellphone to call her father, Jorge Álvaro Ochoa, who told her he was on his way to her apartment. She also warned him that her husband was armed and was yelling threats about killing himself, her, and her father. At this moment, Dangond knocked the door down, fired his weapon, and the bullet scratched his wife's armpit.

When her father, Jorge Álvaro, arrived at their building, she had managed to exit the apartment building where she met with her father, who recounted looking at her as if she were a character from the film *The Exorcist*. Her eyes were purple and swollen, her upper lip was basically touching her nose, and she had come out crawling. Her father immediately tried to report the incident to the police, but was told to return later in the morning when the person in charge of those cases arrived, negligence that he and others would later criticize in the media. He then took her to a clinic where she spent more than a month interned after suffering multiple physical traumas mainly on her head. Doctor Humberto Caiaffa, who cared for Ochoa, said she had multiple fractures and had arrived at the clinic in a "lamentable" state.

Meanwhile On 4 August 2006, Dangond turned himself in to authorities after a brief absentia and was jailed in El Bosque Prison for three months. He was formally accused on 17 November 2006, by Ochoa's family members in a sectional attorney's office in Barranquilla. He was accused of assault and battery, homicide intent, and carrying an illegal weapon. The attorney later decided on the case and absented himself from a final resolution and revoked the preventive detention, setting Dangond temporarily free. He was sentenced to 5 years in jail for attempted murder and for assaulting his wife. Dangond is referred you for counselling by the prison authorities because you are the psychologist in the correctional facility where he is jailed.

- a) With justification from the above case, discuss **three** most relevant history component that you must take with this client ( 9mks)
- b) Conceptualise this case on the basis of psychoanalytic framework (6mks)