



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

**THIRD SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY**

**APS 903: ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS OF PERSONALITY AND
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY**

DATE: MONDAY 1ST AUGUST 2016

TIME: 9.00 A.M. - 12.00 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any two questions from Section B.

SECTION A:

1. A high school in Nairobi has been experiencing unrests for the last one term that have necessitated the banning of outings and interschool competitions. Several reasons for these unrests have been put across such as drug abuse and student indiscipline. You have been appointed a psychological consultant to assess the reasons for the cause of unrest among the students.
 - a) Outline how you will conduct this assessment (5 marks)
 - b) Describe giving reasons for your choices, two assessment inventories you will use. (12 marks)
 - c) Explain particular precautions to be considered in the interpretation of your results. (3 marks)

SECTION B

2. Mary was a normal child when growing up. She had ups and downs, but generally was OK. When she was 23, she was working in a dead end job and one day her boy friend of two years walked out on her. No explanation, just up and left and she was devastated. For the week after that she barely even got out of bed, she just couldn't find the energy or the motivation to get up or do anything. Luckily she had some good friends who

looked after her and got her back on her feet. She left the job, joined the army, and things really looked up for a while. But after she got back from the mission about six months ago, she started feeling horribly low. She didn't even know why - the deployment wasn't difficult. She wasn't really in danger and she didn't see anything too awful or upsetting. But she just felt worse and worse, and all the things she used to enjoy seemed stupid and pointless. She couldn't be bothered doing anything, not even eating. She didn't have any energy but she couldn't sleep either. She managed to convince the clinician at the camp into giving her a few weeks sick off, but that didn't do any good. She just stayed in bed and cried. Once she even thought about killing herself, but then thought about what it would do to her parents

- a) What is the possible psychopathology that Mary is suffering from, give reason for your answer: (4 marks)
 - b) Discuss how you would assess her with particular emphasis on specific assessment tools that you would use in her evaluation and treatment giving reasons for your choice of tools (12 marks)
 - c) How would you monitor her treatment response objectively? (4 marks)
- 3.
- a) List five characteristics of objective tests (5 marks)
 - b) Explain the factors that determine choice of a test (5 marks)
 - c) Describe one objective test used to assess personality citing its psychometric properties and suitability (10 marks)
4. During the end of semester examination, a third year student who had studied hard and had every reason to expect grade A in the examination started experiencing neck stiffness as she entered the examination room. The hands were sweating as she got out her pen to write. Instead of concentrating on the task of test taking, she started worrying about not doing well, and thinking about running out of time. When the result came out she felt cheated because she knew the material or content but the grades did not reflect her knowledge as she score a grade C.

- a) What are the possible diagnoses in this student? (4 marks)
- b) Describe a test that you would use to assess the student to confirm the diagnosis giving reason for your choice. (16 marks)

5. John had seen some pretty horrible things in his time. All part of the job of an ambulance driver. He coped by blocking it all out. Job done, put it behind you, have a few beers. And that worked well for him. Until one day they went into this little village, a few hours after the terrorists had left. They thought the villagers were collaborators and wanted to set an example. It was bloody horrible, but he had never seen so much destruction.

Homes burnt down, people screaming, many of them with terrible injuries or crying over the body of a dead loved one. They did their job with the medics, did all the right things and the army men even managed to track down some of the terrorists. However, when he got home a few weeks later, he couldn't get those images out of his mind. There were lots of them, but one in particular - a young child who'd been mutilated but left alive - came back to him over and over again. Pictures jumping into his mind during the day, nightmares at night. He became short-tempered and on edge, shouting at his wife, losing his cool with the children. Couldn't think straight. Just wanted to lock himself away and draw the curtains. He reports losing his mind. John comes to your office for care.

- a) Explain how you will assess him to read a diagnosis citing the possible diagnosis. (8 marks)
- b) What type of therapy will you administer (2 marks)
- c) List two assessment tools that you will use to monitor his treatment giving reasons for your choice. (2 marks)
- d) For one of them describe its characteristics and sustainability. (8 marks)