



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2020/2021 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANTIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS

APS 420: FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY

DATE: 18/8/2021

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer QUESTION ONE and any other TWO QUESTIONS.

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Citing relevant examples, explain the following key concepts in family psychology. (10 marks)
- i) Family structure
 - ii) Family sub-systems
 - iii) Boundaries
 - iv) Alignments
 - v) Coalitions
- b) Analyse four characteristics of a dysfunctional family. (8 marks)
- c) Appraise three gender differences that lead to divorce. (12 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Citing relevant examples discuss the key assumptions of the following concepts of the family Systems Theory in relation to family functioning.

- i) Differentiation of Self
- ii) Nuclear Family Emotional System
- iii) Triangles
- iv) Family Projection Process
- v) Multigenerational Transmission Process

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

It has been argued that human beings assume the very characteristics and behaviors that hurt them when they were at their most vulnerable.

- a) Analyse the above statement in relation to invisible loyalties in families. (10 marks)
- b) Suggest five ways of ensuring that rather than damaging us, invisible loyalties work to our advantage. (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Analyse six areas in the family structure as identified by Minuchin. (12 marks)
- b) Evaluate four maladjustments that may result from pathological family relationships. (8 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Define stress from a family system's perspective. (2 marks)
- b) Citing relevant examples, differentiate between normative stressor events and non-normative stressor events in the family system. (10 marks)
- c) Appraise four universal defensive communication stances used in coping with family stress. (8 marks)