

**HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA
(HPCSA)**

PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY

**SYLLABUS FOR NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
CLINICAL, COUNSELLING & EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGISTS**

2016

| MAIN OUTCOME: PSYCHOLOGISTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO: | MAIN CONTENT/CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT METHODS | READING MATERIAL FOR THE NATIONAL EXAMINATION OR COURSES/ACTIVITIES IN WHICH OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING ARE OFFERED |
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| 1. Know and understand different aspects of the Health Professions Act No. 56 of 1974 and shall be familiar with any relevant law concerning custody, HIV/AIDS, abuse of children and vulnerable adults. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Successful performance on an exit examination that demonstrates an understanding of critical facts in S.A. Ethical Code for Psychologists. ii) Analysis of case studies that reflect legal and ethical dilemmas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Ethical rules of conduct for practitioners registered under the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974). Government Gazette No. 29079, 4 August 2006. ii) Labour Relations Act (Act No. 66 of 1995) iii) Chapter 2: S.A. Constitution (Act No. 108 of 1996) iv) Health Related Acts; www.hpcsa.co.za |
| 2. Explain the contexts in which guiding ethical principles influence the functioning of psychologists. | <p>Successful demonstration of the ways psychologists manifest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Beneficence and non-maleficence; integrity, professional and scientific responsibility; respect for human rights and dignity; social responsibility ii) Analyses of case studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Form 223) ii) Health Professions Act 1974 (Act 56 of 1974). |
| 3. Limit practice and supervision to areas of competence in which proficiency has been gained through education, training and experience. | <p>Examination requires the candidates to demonstrate that they have acquired requisite knowledge, are capable of applying this knowledge effectively with judgement and objectivity. Competence; practicing outside limits of competence e.g. practising in areas characterised by absence of nearby referral resources; test misuse; physical or mental impairment; poor record keeping; failure to diagnose; treat or to refer and failure to warn. Render intervention in keeping with one's category. Give reasons why psychologists develop problems in these areas. Case studies which are composite or hypothetical scenarios will be presented in the examination paper.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Scope of Practice (Form 224) ii) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Form 223) iii) Health Professions Act 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) |

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| 4. Know and understand record-keeping guidelines to ensure accountability and to meet other requirements of the law. | Examination shall focus on records of: i) The presenting problem ii) The fee arrangement iii) The date and substance of each billed service iv) Test results or other evaluative results and v) How to dispose of records | i) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Form 223) ii) Policy on classification of tests (Forms 207 and 208) iii) Health Professions Act 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) |
| 5. Discontinue or not to undertake a professional relationship with a client when the psychologist is impaired due to mental, emotional or substance abuse conditions. | i) Examination shall focus on what appropriate measures should be taken in case of impairment and justification for such measures. ii) Analyses of case studies | i) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Form 223) ii) Health Professions Act 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) |
| 6. Discontinue or not to undertake a professional relationship with a client when the objectivity of the psychologist is compromised because of the psychologist's present or previous familial, social, sexual etc. relationships with the client or his/her relative. | i) Examination shall focus on problems/consequences of multiple or dual relationships and conflict of interest: What are warning signs of dual relationships? ii) Analyses of case studies in this context. | i) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Form 223) ii) Health Professions Act 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) |
| 7. Abide by regulations of informed consent to professional procedures and shall safeguard the confidentiality of information obtained during professional service. | The examination calls for: i) Principles of informed consent ii) Components of informed consent iii) Most common causes of disciplinary/legal actions related informed consent. iv) Breach of confidentiality and conditions under which the psychologist can disclose confidential information. | i) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Form 223). ii) Health Professions Act 1994 (Act 56 of 1974) |

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| 8. Reflect on scientist-practitioner-model in their assessment activities. | Examination questions will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Demonstration of an appropriate understanding and level of reflection on values and ethical issues. ii) Analyses of case studies that reflect ethical dilemmas and those standards governing research. iii) Reaction papers in selected (SAPJ) journal articles. iv) Questions that call for steps in problem solving and critical thinking skills. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Form 223) ii) Health Professions Act 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) |
| 9. Know and understand diagnosis of psychopathological conditions/ disorders. | Examination questions must elicit evidence of ability to use the DSM -5 to ensure that information needed for treatment planning, prediction of outcome and research is recorded. | DSM-5 |

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| <p>10. Recognize that they may someday be a defendant in a civil lawsuit or may face criminal charges or loss of their registration to practice.</p> | <p>Examination questions must cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Distinction between civil liability and criminal liability. ii) Psycho-legal activities. iii) Advertising and other public statement activities. iv) Malpractice or professional negligence e.g. failure to warn or to protect or to supervise hospitalized patients. v) Area of child custody disputes. vi) Fraud and inappropriate billing practices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Form 223). ii) Health Professions Act 1974 (Act 56 of 1974). |
| <p>MAIN OUTCOME: PSYCHOLOGISTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:</p> | <p>MAIN CONTENT/ CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT METHODS</p> | <p>READING MATERIAL FOR THE NATIONAL EXAMINATION OR COURSES/ACTIVITIES IN WHICH OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING ARE OFFERED</p> |
| <p>11. Consult with peer professionals, ethics committees and legal section of the HPCSA to resolve ethical issues.</p> | <p>Examination must cover steps in resolving ethical issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Identification of ethically relevant issues and practices. ii) Development of alternative courses of action. iii) Analysis of risks and benefits of each course of action. iv) Choice of courses of action. v) Action with a commitment. vi) Evaluation of the results of the course of action. vii) Assumption of responsibility for the consequences of action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Ethical Code of Professional Conduct (Form 223). ii) Health Professions Act 1974 (Act 56 of 1974). |