2009 HSC Community and Family Studies
Sample Answers

This document contains 'sample answers', or, in the case of some questions, 'answer may include'. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

(a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills, and

(b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice, are not intended to be exemplary or even complete responses. They have been reproduced in their original form as part of the examination committee's 'working document'. While the handwritten notes have been typed for legibility, no further editorial change or addition has occurred.

Section I, Part B

Question 11

Answers could include:

The limitations of observation include:
- Researcher may be subjective and is often biased
- Researcher's presence and actions may influence the group's dynamics if group members detect what the researcher is there for and do not act naturally
- A time-consuming process

Question 12

Answers could include:

The inclusion of students with disabilities into mainstream education gives them a positive wellbeing. Access to education provides the disabled with a feeling of self worth and gives them the opportunity to participate and contribute to the community and the workforce.

Question 13

Answers could include:

Meeting the self-esteem needs of youth is important in order for:
- Feeling valued and accepted within the community
- Acceptance of their sexuality
- No stigmatisation within society
- Dignity and respect to be shown by others
- No discrimination

It is important for these needs to be met in order for youth to achieve social and emotional wellbeing.

Question 14

Answers could include:

Social needs are distinct from physical and emotional needs. Social needs include an environment in which socialisation; interaction, recreation, companionship and friendship are fostered. Identification with family and social groups may promote a sense of belonging. Elderly people may not access social resources as a result of:
- Poor physical health
- Limited mobility
- Lack of financial support
- Feeling insecure and unsafe
- Change of routines

Strategies to address social needs include:
- Education i.e. better understanding of communications technology
- Access to financial support
- Better access to social clubs, hobby and sports groups and other support groups, which can foster a sense of belonging and identity.
- Better access to health services
- Better transport coordination and facilities

Question 15

Answers could include:

- Couples have higher rates of children in the 0–4 years of age group because: they feel they have more flexibility of resources in a two parent family; the likelihood of separation increases with the duration of marriage and children are likely to be conceived in the early stages of a marriage; couples tend to remain together when children are young to help meet their needs and wellbeing.

- Lone mothers have higher rates of children in the 0–4 years age group because: women are considered to be nurturers in society; women are less likely to be in fulltime employment, so they have more flexibility to care for the child.

- Lone fathers have the lowest rates of children in the 0–4 years age group because: men are less associated with the nurturing/caring role; they may consider themselves to have less workplace flexibility than women; men are less likely to be granted full-time custody of children in the courts.

Question 16 (a)

Answers could include:

Examples of families in crisis may include families:
- Made homeless as a result of bushfire or flood
- Evicted from their home because they do not have the money to pay the rent or mortgage
- Where the sole wage earner unexpectedly loses his or her job
- Unable to meet their financial commitments
- With a member who is arrested or jailed
- Living in fear of violence, or with a person the family fears about to be released from prison
- With no money to buy food
- Unable to care for their children due to illness or changing circumstances
- With a parent or parents affected by drug use or misuse

Answers may refer to services from both public and private sectors. Families in crisis require assistance with accessing services through a case manager and service providers that are adequately trained to deal with the needs of families in crisis. Families in crisis need access to support groups so they can have the support of people in similar situations that know what they are going through. Children may need special counselling to assist them to cope with change and any fear or insecurity they may have. People need access to services that are sensitive to their needs.

Question 16 (b)

Answers could include:

Needs that are of high priority for the aged include:
- Employment– volunteer work keeps the aged active and provides stimulation from members of society
- Financial support– provision is made for the aged to access pensions and seniors benefits, such as low cost and discounted products
- Education– older people were raised in a time when technology was very different to today – with no computers. It is essential that they become involved and gain technology skills
- Access to services–aged people may have increased health and mobility problems, needing the support of family, community and government resources
- Sense of identity– belonging to community groups assists the aged to feel like worthwhile members of society
- Health– greater risks for poor health and medical issues are evident in the aged, requiring access to affordable health care and medication
- Self-esteem– community groups, volunteer work and part-time work allow for independence and self satisfaction for the aged
- Housing– access to low cost, supported housing such as nursing homes or family support is a great need for the aged
- Security and safety– the aged population needs access to secure, safe-housing and environments

Question 16 (c)

Answers could include:

Youth often have conflict with the wider community as they have a great need to socialise, often loitering in public places creating a safety concern for community members. As youth access community facilities, their risk taking behaviour in cars and on skateboards and bikes often cause a public nuisance. When groups of youths gather in gangs, the threat of drug, alcohol abuse and violence is escalated, creating a conflict with the community. Ways of resolving such conflict include bans on drugs and alcohol in public places, increased recreational leisure facilities for the youth, p-plate legislation, school driver education programs and increased alcohol awareness programs/ advertising.

Section I, Part C

Question 17 (a)

Answers could include:

Conditions that may result in a child classified as 'special needs' include:
- Chronic illness
- Learning disorders
- Developmental disorders
- Physical disorders

A child with special needs could impact upon paid and non-paid work commitments. There may also be impacts on time a parent or carer spends in recreational activities with other family members or in leisure activities outside of the home. To address these issues, parents and carers may need to better balance family and work commitments and/ or re-prioritise current leisure and household activities.

Question 17 (b)

Answers could include:

Individual and family income can determine resources utilised to maintain the parenting and caring relationship. For example, higher incomes can allow for greater participation in non-essential activities. These activities may allow for increased socialisation between parties in a parenting and caring relationship. Parents and carers with low incomes may use less expensive activities to develop socialisation skills and relationships. Socio economic status may limit the ability to pay for care and require individuals to take on care themselves.

Question 17 (c)

Answers could include:

Circumstances which may lead to an individual requiring care include:
- Family crisis
- Illness
- Loss of mobility
- Injury
- Loss of a partner
- Birth of a child
- Special needs
- Work or educational commitments
- Disability
- Age

Strategies to assist carers in meeting needs include:
- Re-organising work and recreational commitments
- Improving access to services
- Better time management
- Modifications to the home
- Developing skills to assist those in care

Section II

Question 18 (a)

Answers could include:

The community contributes to young people's leisure and recreation in the following ways:
- Provision of parks, sporting clubs, recreational leisure centres
- Department of Family and Community Services– provides service and assistance to promote healthy family relationships and provides financial support for families to participate in community activities
- Police and community youth clubs– provides low cost leisure activities for children of all ages, including sports, video and music activities which assist to raise self-esteem, life skills and relationship building leading to less truancy, crime and delinquency
- Centrelink– provides financial assistance for families to access resources equitably to enhance family functioning and enable them to build identity and self-esteem and enhance their socio economic and emotional wellbeing

Question 18 (b)

Answers could include:

Governments assist young people to become young adults in the following ways:
- Licensing drivers
- School attendance
- Regulating access to tobacco and alcohol
- Gambling regulations
- Right to vote
- Setting the legal age for sexual relationships and marriage
- Gaining entitlements e.g. passport
- Protecting children in the workplace

Question 18 (c)

Answers could include:

Community programs that focus on violence related issues include:
- Counselling and mediation– to resolve disputes fairly and equitably and to emotionally support individuals and families
- Hotlines– The Department of Community Services violence 24-hour line
- Women's refuges– provide crisis accommodation and a safe environment for women and children in need
- Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) issues by the police– An AVO is an order that is registered with the Local Court, which restricts the behaviour of the defendant for a period of time
- Welfare agencies such as St Vincent de Paul Society– offer family crisis centres and refuges

Question 19 (a)

Answers could include:

Technology is the know-how and creative processes that may assist people to utilise tools, resources and systems to solve problems and enhance control over the natural and made environment in an endeavour to improve the human condition.
Technologies can be the process of doing something or the end result of processes.
Technologies can be applied in a wide variety of locations.

Definitions of technology include:
• UNESCO, 1985
• Technology as applied practical knowledge
• Technology as hardware e.g. appliances, toys
• Technology as organisation of knowledge e.g. media, home entertainment

Question 19 (b)

Answers could include:

Types of communication technologies that can impact on interpersonal relations in families include:
• Games
• Mobile phones i.e. sms
• Television
• Internet
• MP3 devices
Impacts on interpersonal relations may involve:
• Less face to face communication
• Increased digital communication
• Less active interpersonal leisure pursuits
• Increased interpersonal communication i.e. ability to work from home and time saving technologies
• Conflict resulting from inappropriate use of technologies i.e. gambling, pornography
• Improved interpersonal relations resulting from better access to knowledge and education

Question 19 (c)

Answers could include:

Ethical considerations associated with the development of technology may be associated with conflict between technological innovations and cultural norms and values and/or religious beliefs i.e. human reproduction involving IVF, genetic engineering, contraception and human cloning. Ethical considerations may also be associated with privacy and confidentiality of individuals and information.

Question 20 (a)

Answers could include:

Benefits of seasonal work include:
- Can meet family needs as the work is not on a regular basis and the family can work to fit in with lifestyle commitments e.g. holidays and caring for children
- Can provide an income while individuals are travelling or studying which can enhance their financial independence and provide some social interaction

Benefits of job share work include:
- Offers greater flexibility for families in managing multiple roles
- Allows parents to care for their children while engaging in part-time work employment to meet the economic needs of the family
- Social needs are met through interaction in the workplace
- Meets the needs of people considering retirement where work hours can be slowly phased down yet financial and social independence is achieved

Question 20 (b)

Answers could include:

When roles are not evenly distributed, it may result in a great deal of dissatisfaction, causing family conflict. If both parents are fully employed and one of the parents is taking on most of the tasks, then they can become stressed and their emotional wellbeing will be affected, perhaps even losing their self-worth. Social wellbeing will also be affected, as there will be limited time and energy to socialise. Gender equity issues may arise, resulting in conflict if girls in the household are expected to participate in domestic tasks but boys in the household have no/ minimal expectations in this area.

Question 20 (c)

Answers could include:

Supportive workplace structures include:
Creating safe work environments by adopting safe work practice. Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000, an employer must ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of all employees. Employees have the responsibility to report all unsafe work practices or environments. It is important both employers and employees abide by the OH&S Act to ensure safe work practices are followed in order to assist with efficient work practices.

Work conditions such as:
- Awards – is a legal document that specifies minimum conditions under which a worker is employed. It covers matters such as sick leave, wages, overtime and holidays. When employees abide by the conditions of the award and employees have access to their award conditions, this contributes to a harmonious workplace environment.

- Anti-discrimination – it is the responsibility of the employer to ensure that discrimination practices do not occur in the workplace, that any discrimination grievances are supported and that conciliation procedures take place to try and resolve the issue. People can be discriminated against directly and indirectly, yet effective work practices can be managed by employers following the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act. Addressing unequal treatment issues in the workplace promptly contributes to efficient work practices.

- Grievance procedures– complaints of discrimination should be made firstly to the employer and the relevant union contacted if applicable. If the matter cannot be settled, the case needs to be referred to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board who investigate and attempt conciliation with both parties. If the conciliation is unsuccessful, the case may be referred to the Equal Opportunity Tribunal who will give determination enforceable by law. Clear grievance policies within the workplace assist to minimise workplace disruption caused by disputes.

- Trade unions and employer organisations– trade unions are representative organisations that campaign on behalf of their members to achieve the best possible working conditions and represent employees in negotiations and disputes. Employees can request their union to represent them in a number of ways. Employer associations also provide support to their members in many ways, such as representation in relation to industrial relations.

- Workers compensation– provides help and support to aid the recovery of a person injured at work or who has an illness related to their work. By doing this, most injured workers can return to work safely and as soon as possible, contributing to efficient work practices. Workcover NSW also supports the role of efficient workplace structures by managing the State's workplace safety, injury management and workers compensation systems.