GRADUATE SCHOOL OF APPLIED AND PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY:
ADVANCED GENERAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

**ORIENTATION TO THE HOT TOPIC QUESTION**

**PREPARING FOR THE HOT TOPIC QUESTION (6-3-08)**

Note: It is recommended that you keep a copy of this Orientation to the Hot Topic so that you have it available when the Hot Topic question is handed out on July 23.

NOTE 1. Before you pick up this question, you will be able to consult any written or electronic source relating to the topic and discuss it with any others. However, once you pick up the actual question, you are prohibited from talking to anyone else about it. You will be asked to sign an Integrity Statement to this effect.

NOTE 2. Hot Topic Administration. Your Department secretary, Kathy or Alicia, will communicate with you about the procedures for obtaining your Hot Topic question on July 23 and returning it by July 28.

The narrative answer to this question must be typewritten and fit on an absolute maximum of 10 printed double-spaced pages using font 12 and 1 inch margins on 4 sides of each page. (One or more pages of references can be in addition to the 10 pages.) The author should be identified by the last four digits of her or his student ID number. The pages should be numbered as header or footer on each page and securely fastened together.

NOTE 3: Please write your program (clinical, organizational, or school) on the front page of your answer.

***********

**APA’s PUBLIC INTEREST INITIATIVES**

**Background**

APA has a Public Interest Directorate, which has its own web site: [http://www.apa.org/pi/](http://www.apa.org/pi/).
The “About” section of that web site is located at the following address:
[http://www.apa.org/pi/about.html](http://www.apa.org/pi/about.html)

**Public Interest Directorate Mission**

To fulfill APA’s commitment to apply the science and practice of psychology to the fundamental problems of human welfare and social justice and the promotion of equitable and just treatment of all segments of society through education, training and public policy.

**About the Public Interest Directorate**

The activities of the Public Interest Directorate are overseen by the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest. The mission of the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest is to encourage the generation and application of psychological knowledge on issues important to human well being. The APA Public Interest Directorate supports and promotes efforts to apply the science and profession of psychology to the advancement of human welfare. Public Interest issues are of central importance to the science and profession of psychology and critical to consumers of psychological services and the general public.
The major objectives of the Public Interest Directorate are to:

- promote those aspects of psychology that involve solutions to the fundamental problems of human justice and equitable and fair treatment of all segments of society;
- encourage the utilization and dissemination of psychological knowledge to advance equal opportunity and to foster empowerment of those who do not share equitably in society's resources;
- increase scientific understanding and training in regard to those aspects that pertain to, but are not limited to, culture, class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and discrimination; and to support improving educational training opportunities for all persons.

Programs

In pursuit of the above, on The Public Interest Directorate has a number of programs it pursues, which are listed on the Home Page and in the About Section and include the following:

The Public Interest Directorate consists of (12) Twelve program offices:

- Office on Aging
- Office on AIDS
- Children, Youth and Families Office
- Disability Issues in Psychology Office
- Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs
- Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns Office
- Minority Fellowship Program
- Public Policy Office - Public Interest Advocacy
- Office on Socioeconomic Status (SES)
- Violence Prevention Office
- Women's Programs Office
- Work, Stress, and Health Office

The Hot Topic Question Area

For the Hot Topic Question Area this year, each student is expected:

(a) to be able to describe the overall nature of the Public Interest Directorate’s activities and how they fit into the larger mission of organized psychology as a discipline and societal institution; and

(b) to select a particular substantive area of public interest (e.g., from one of the program areas listed above) and to be able (1) to describe in some depth the nature of the specific public interest area involved, and (2) to describe and critically discuss the Directorate’s activities in the area. This can include what the Directorate is not doing but should be doing.

Reading Resources

Material for answering the question should be drawn from what you have learned in your courses, other relevant learning experiences, and the material on the Public Interest Directorate web site, which includes a variety of Public Interest Directorate publications at: http://www.apa.org/pi/publications.html

BELOW IS A COPY OF THE INTEGRITY STATEMENT YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN AND HAND IN WITH YOUR COMPLETED EXAM. A COPY OF THIS STATEMENT WILL BE INCLUDED WITH THE HOT TOPIC QUESTION ITSELF.
“HOT TOPIC” QUESTION

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME: __________________________________________

Concerning the “hot topic” question on the 2008 General Comprehensive Exam, I have neither given information to nor received information from others concerning this question, nor discussed this question with anyone.

I understand that the above sentence is clarified by the following: Before I picked up the Hot Topic question, I was able to consult any written source relating to the topic and discuss it with any others. However, once I picked up the actual question, I was not able to talk to anyone else about it.

PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME AND GIVE THE DATE

________________________________________

DATE__________________