

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS TAKING THE “HOT TOPIC” PORTION  
OF THE GENERAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (7-27-05)**

**\*\*\* The narrative answer to this question must be typewritten and fit on an absolute maximum of 10 printed 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 only be identified by the last four digits of his or her Social Security number. Please do not print your name on any pages.**

**\*\*\* The pages should be numbered on each page and securely fastened together.**

**\*\*\* NOTE. 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.**

**Enclosed in your packet are several important items:**

- 1) Integrity Statement - Please fill out and sign this form and enclose it in the folder to be handed in with your Hot Topic answer.**
- 2) Your temporary Parking Permit for Lot 54 for General Comps (August 8 & 9) and Clinical Comps (August 18 & 19).**
- 3) The Hot Topic Question – Please return to Sylvia Krieger after 9:00am and no later than 4:00pm on August 1st. There will be no exceptions made for the return date.**

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

**THE HOT TOPIC QUESTION (7-27-05)**

**Background**

APA has a Public Interest Directorate, which has its own web site: <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>

The About Section of the website describes the Directorate’s mission as encouraging “the generation and application of psychological knowledge on issues important to human well being.” Also described on the About Section are three major objectives of this mission:

“[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;

[to] 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;

[to] 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.”

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

**Programs**

Aging  
AIDS  
Children, Youth and Families  
Disability Issues  
Ethnic Minority Affairs  
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns  
Public Interest Advocacy  
Women's Issues  
Work, Stress, and Health Issues

**Topics**

Advocacy	Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues
Aging	Minorities
AIDS	Violence
Children, Youth, and Families	Women
End of Life Issues and Care	Work
Disabilities	

## **THE QUESTION**

Assume you have been elected as APA President and that you want to develop and promote an APA Initiative – combining research, professional and public education, and advocacy functions -- on one of the programs or topics listed, working closely with the Public Interest Directorate and others. Also assume that as President, you have a sizable budget from APA to apply to the Initiative. You are to write out a plan for the activities of this APA Initiative, answering at least the following items:

**1) Research:**

- A) What substantive types of research do you plan to generate on the topic?
- B) What research methods do you plan to use?
- C) What is your rationale for this type and method of research based on:
  - a) The topic itself,
  - b) The political, social, economic, and cultural context of the topic, and
  - c) Previous research on the topic?

**2) Professional and Public Education:**

- A) What plans do you have for professional and public education? Specifically,
  - a) What plans do you have for the substance of what educational information will be disseminated?
  - b) What plans do you have for the methods by which the educational information will be disseminated?
- B) What is your rationale for the type and method of education?

**3) Advocacy:**

- A) What strategies do you have for advocating for your topic?
- B) What specific methods and procedures do you have for advocating for your topic?
- C) What is your rationale for the type and method of advocacy?

**Note 1:** Throughout your answers, indicate what professional and lay groups you will be working with and targeting.

**Note 2:** Document your plans with appropriate citations, to indicate the scholarly basis behind them.

### **Reading Resources**

There should be enough material on the APA website, together with its various hyperlinks to other web sites and other resources, to prepare for the question – although pursuing other information is not excluded. Note that the material on the web site includes a variety of Public Interest Directorate publications at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/publications.html>

**INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

**“HOT TOPIC” QUESTION**

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Concerning the “hot topic” question on the 2005 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 \_\_\_\_\_