

2006 General Comprehensive Exam

Question 3

Community Psychology

Start a new blue book. On the cover of the blue book or on the top of the computer page, write: the digits of your student number as listed on the brown envelope; Question 3, General Exam; and the date. If using a computer, use no more than six pages (10-point) double-spaced. If writing, use no more than twenty single-sided pages.

Question 3. Imagine that the Board of Education in your school district is very concerned about the rising rate of teen pregnancy. As a doctoral-level psychologist living in the district, you have served as a volunteer in one or two community groups. The president of the board asks you to head a committee that will be responsible for addressing this problem. The school district resides in an upper middle class community. It is a community with considerable ethnic diversity.

Address the following points. In doing so, make sure you cite relevant literature:

- Discuss how you would conceptualize this problem from a community psychology perspective. Discuss which ecological levels of analysis you would target, and your rationale. What methods of prevention do you believe would be appropriate? Why?
- Discuss your approach in determining the effectiveness of this intervention. What factors would you need to consider, and discuss the process you would utilize in determining effectiveness?
- Discuss what obstacles you might face from parents, school personnel, the students, and the community, including the challenges you would face in developing this intervention in an ethnically diverse community. What steps would you take to overcome these obstacles?
- In no more than two paragraphs, indicate the main ways in which your response would change if the context were a low SES urban community.