2006 General Comprehensive Exam

Question 4

Legal and Ethical Issues

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 4, 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 4. Assume that you graduated from GSAPP five years ago and are engaged in a job as part of your desired career path (based upon your present thinking in August, 2006) Also assume that you are working in New Jersey. Then answer the three-part question below:

A) Describe (a) the geographical location of where you would be working, and (b) the relevant job/career path, including the role, title, organizational setting, population and type of problems dealt with, and professional activities involved.

B) Create two scenarios within your job/career path. Each scenario should generate a number of distinctively different ethical and/or legal issues. One scenario should be (a) an actual situation with which you are familiar, or (b) a creative reworking of a situation with which you are familiar. The other scenario can be (a) or (b), or (c) a hypothetical situation

Note: In the case scenarios, situations, and ethical/legal issues you identify, your discussion may focus on your own behavior, challenges and choices as an individual/professional, your clients/the public good, and/or the optimal development of the field.

For each scenario, do the following:

1) Describe the situation in some detail;
2) Analyze the ethical and legal issues both separately and in terms of how they relate to one another; and
3) Suggest guidelines for resolving the issues.

Back up your analyses with references to specifics in the following documents:

a) APA's (2002) Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct,
b) APA's 1987 General Guidelines for Providers of Psychological Services, and
c) The New Jersey Licensing Law (or describe the parallel authority if you are working outside of New Jersey).
d) Also, you are encouraged to include other writings related to the ethics and challenges of your career path.

(For brevity and consistency, please refer to a-c, respectively, as the “Ethical Principles,” the “Provider Guidelines,” and the “Licensing Law.”)

C) Based on the scenario analyses in item B, generalize to how the principles and practices in the three documents:

(1) provide positive guidance in dealing with the ethical/legal issues,
(2) raise problems in dealing with the ethical/legal issues, and
(3) leave gaps and silence in dealing with the ethical/legal issues.