THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

EXAMINATIONS OF DECEMBER 2008

CODE AND NAME OF COURSE: SOWK 1001 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK

DATE AND TIME: December 2008
DURATION: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES: This paper has 2 pages and 8 questions.

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.

1. You are invited to appear on a radio programme during World Social Work Day. The moderator makes a statement that lots of people do social work, for example, some people raise funds and give food hampers to the needy, especially at Christmas, and they are not considered a professional Social Worker. Refute this statement drawing on the professional attributes of social work.

   (25 marks)

2. Discuss the history and development of Social Work and Social Welfare in any one Caribbean territory.

   (25 marks)

3. Analyze the impact of social policy provision and programming in meeting the needs of disadvantaged groups or vulnerable members in society.

   (25 marks)

4. Vignette - Janice is a 28-year-old non-Barbadian who for many years maintained herself and her family as a sex worker. Janice has been recently diagnosed with cancer of the cervix. She has two children – a son age four (4) years and a daughter age ten (10) years who appears to be doing fairly well in school. Her last partner, who is the father of her last child, recently lost his job as a fork-lift driver and has started drinking.

   (a) What are your personal views on the issue of prostitution?  (5 marks)
   (b) How are they likely to influence your work with this client?  (5 marks)
   (c) Briefly discuss the options available to this client.  (5 marks)
   (d) What are some of the likely issues to be addressed?  (5 marks)
   (e) What are the roles of the social worker at the micro, mezzo and macro levels?  (5 marks)
5. (a) "Numerous values and ethical principles influence people's behaviour." Segal E. et al (2007). Discuss the basis for values and ethics in the social work profession. (6 marks)

(b) Define an ethical dilemma. (3 marks)

(c) How relevant is self-determination and confidentiality to the practice of social work? (8 marks)

(d) What are the limits to confidentiality and self-determination? (8 marks)

6. Discuss the statement: "One of the most fundamental social work values is a strong belief in the importance of achieving and maintaining social justice." Shaefor A. & Horejsi C. (2006) (25 marks)

7. (a) What are the subjective and objective evidence/indicators of the existence of poverty in Barbados or one other Caribbean territory? (10 marks)

(b) What roles do you think social workers can play in addressing poverty? Is poverty better addressed at the micro, mezzo or macro level of social work practice? (10 marks)

(c) Briefly discuss the impact of a social programme aimed at alleviating poverty. (5 marks)

8. The ecosystems perspective offers a way of viewing behaviour within the context of environments. How relevant is this perspective to Generalist Social Work practice and to practice with individuals and families? (25 marks)

End of Examination Question Paper.