



THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

4702 -- HONOURS PSYCHOLOGY (PSYCHOL 4000A)

CRITICAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOLOGY

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

JUNE 2006

Time: 3 hours

(In addition, candidates are allowed ten minutes before the examination begins to read the paper.)

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**ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS**

1. The research evidence does suggest that most systems of psychotherapy have equivalent outcomes, given that the therapist is competent and has developed a strong alliance with the client. The literature does also suggest that extensive training and experience is not strongly associated, if at all, with good therapeutic outcomes. In the light of this evidence, therefore, is there a sufficiently strong case that mandates that therapy has to be delivered by extensively post-graduate trained psychologists and cannot be delivered by practitioners who have less formal but more general training? You will need to considered literature on the scientist practitioner model of training and on evidence based practice and practice based evidence.
2. Discuss the changing concept of disability and its implications for assessment.
3. 'The search to understand what works in psychotherapy has introduced a healthy debate between proponents of different theoretical orientations within the psychology profession over many decades. However, in the last few years the advent of evidence – based practice as a central issue in the delivery of health care in Australia, and internationally, has introduced a more acrimonious tone to the debate' (Littlefield, 2005, page 6).

Critically describe the theoretical perspectives informing the debate and its implications for the practice of psychology.

PLEASE TURN OVER

4. 'In what ways, and to what extent, can forgiveness be related to concepts of justice? What are the pitfalls and promises of making such a link? In justifying your response, consider the question at both a conceptual and an applied level'.
  
5. Emotional intelligence is?
  
6. Dennis and Kintsch (in press) discuss 10 criteria for evaluating psychological theories. List these ten criteria providing a one or two sentence summary of each. Then choose 3 of these to expand upon giving examples of how they might apply in practice.

**END OF EXAMINATION**