

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

M.Sc.

M.Sc. Culture and Mental Health: Written Examination

COURSE CODE : CLMH0001

DATE : 15-MAY-03

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

M.Sc. in Culture and Mental Health - 3 Hours
Answer THREE questions, EACH FROM A DIFFERENT SECTION

Section A

1. "Without illness and suffering, life would lose much of its meaning". Discuss.
2. Comment on the argument that the concept of the sick role, however outdated in western society, remains useful when analysing the behaviour of patients and healers in other cultures.
3. Outline the various constraints on healers in everyday practice when treating their patients in ANY ONE community.
4. Analyse the implications, for ANY ONE society, if it is indeed true that "illnesses like AIDS and Alzheimers have made the traditional idea of care by the patient's kin largely impracticable".
5. Assess, with examples, the advantages and disadvantages analytically of using a political-economy approach to understanding health and sickness in ANY ONE nation or region.
6. EITHER
[A] Outline the way medical anthropologists justify their use of the concept of 'placebo' for explaining the efficacy of a traditional therapy;
OR [B] "Anthropologists may use the concept of 'placebo' to explain the efficacy of traditional therapies, but such explanations scarcely help with practical policy-making today: the crisis of HIV needs other solutions". Discuss.
7. Assess and explain the efficacy of ANY ONE programme of health education or public health campaign.
8. Review ANY ONE monograph on the anthropology of health and illness.

Section B

1. Comment on the claim that psychiatry needs anthropology more than anthropology needs psychiatry.
2. What are the religious aspects of therapy/healing?
3. What techniques could you use to explore local ideas about mental illness in the course of fieldwork?

TURN OVER

4. How might psychopathology contribute to new religious ideas?
5. Describe how any ONE psychoactive substance is incorporated into social institutions.
6. Discuss the contribution of any ONE of the following to theories of society
 - a) S. Freud
 - b) C.G. Jung
 - c) K. Horney
 - d) G. Devereux
7. If you were the anthropological advisor to a government commission., outline a practical research strategy for any ONE of the following:
 - a) Ethnic minority dissatisfaction with psychiatric services.
 - b) Psychotherapeutic support for cloned children.
 - c) Unrecognised tuberculosis among the British Bengali community.
 - d) Training ethnic minority counsellors and therapists.
8. Discuss stigmatisation with regard to psychiatric illness.

Section C

1. Do mental health professionals view religion negatively?
2. "The mystic and psychotic are really one and the same; it's merely a matter of labelling". Discuss.
3. Discuss the problems setting up and implementing an anthropological study of mental illness in another culture.
4. What role have racist assumptions played in the history and development of cultural psychiatry?
5. What problems might arise while working with religious patients in a mental health setting?
6. Discuss, using ethnographic examples, how notions of suicide vary across cultures?

END OF PAPER