Information about the exam

SPED4303 Psychological, social and emotional difficulties from a global perspective

Credits	10
Study programme	Master's in Special Needs Education
Year and semester	2025 Spring
Examination support material	No examination support material is allowed.
Grading system	A-F
Responsible person for the course	Francis Vergunst
Examination date	4th June 2025

Exam instructions

Please read these instructions carefully before beginning the exam.

- In this exam, you will write two essays of up to 1500 words each (3000 words total).
- You must select one essay topic from Section A and one from Section B.
- Support your claims with in-text citations. A reference list is not required.
- Direct quotes and paraphrased information should be properly attributed to their original sources.

1 Section A

Section A

1. Drawing on prevalence data and global disease burden estimates, critically discuss why it is important to take a global perspective on mental health. In your answer, refer to both economic and humanistic/moral frameworks that inform global mental health priorities.

2. Discuss the global prevalence of mental health disorders and the challenges faced in measuring this burden. What is the evidence that some common mental health problems are increasing?

3. In what ways can cultural factors influence the diagnosis, presentation, and classification of mental illnesses? Critically discuss whether certain mental disorders are universal or culture-bound

Fill in your answer here

Format

Words: 0/1500

Maximum marks: 10

2 Section B

Section B

4. Critically discuss the barriers to scaling up mental health prevention in the global context. In your answer, consider obstacles (e.g., stigma, healthcare funding) and facilitators (e.g., task-shifting, digital health) for improving global mental health outcomes. Highlight how these factors differ between high-income countries (HICs) and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

5. What are the key challenges in addressing stigma and discrimination against people with mental health conditions? Discuss how these challenges may differ between high-income countries (HICs) and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

6. UNICEF describes climate change as a “child rights crisis.” Critically assess this statement, focusing on how climate change disproportionately affects children’s mental health. Provide examples to support your analysis.

Fill in your answer here

Format

Words: 0/1500

Maximum marks: 10