



Strathmore
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION
BAC 1203: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
END OF SEMESTER EXAM

Date: Tuesday 13th April

Time: 09:00 – 11:00

Instructions

1. Answer question 1 and any other 2 questions in the answer booklet provided
2. Each question has an article that is slightly edited to fit the time and purpose given for this exam.
3. Spelling and language related errors will be penalised.

Question 1 (30 marks)

Teen Killed 6 Family Members After Dad Scolded Him for Leaving the House:
Pilar Melendez. January 26, 2021

An Indianapolis teenager accused of killing six family members over the weekend reportedly began the grisly attack after his father yelled at him for leaving the house without permission, according to police and people close to the family.

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department on Monday announced the arrest of a 17-year-old boy in connection with the Sunday murder of five people, including a pregnant woman whose unborn baby also died. Investigators were led to the crime scene at around 4 a.m. after a boy was found with a gunshot wound just steps away from the house.

“I’m still tryna wrap my mind around this whole thing,” Nikki Smith, a childhood friend of victim Kezzie Childs, told The Daily Beast. “This doesn’t make any sense! I can’t even imagine who would do such a horrible thing.”

Authorities have identified those killed as Kezzie Childs, 42; Raymond Childs, 42; Elijah Childs, 18; Rita Childs, 13; and Kiara Hawkins, 19. Hawkins’ unborn baby boy also died. Hawkins was taken to a local hospital in an attempt to save her and her child, but all six victims were pronounced dead Sunday morning.

The name and photo of the 17-year-old suspect haven't been released because he is a minor, but an IMPD spokeswoman said the suspect is not the same juvenile who was found wounded on Sunday.

Local outlets Fox59, [WRTV](#), and [WISH-TV](#) reported that the arrested teenager was Raymond Childs' son. According to a police report obtained by Fox59, the teen's younger brother is the wounded boy authorities first found.

When police interviewed the boy at the hospital, he reportedly told them that his older brother had been punished by his father for leaving the house without permission, Fox59 reports. The reprimand reportedly enraged the teen.

The younger brother said that he was with his parents downstairs when they heard gunshots and his sister screaming.

"He shot them," his sister screamed out before several more gunshots rang out, according to the wounded boy. The police report states that the 17-year-old then "came down the stairs with a Draco gun, a handgun that shoots rifle rounds, and started shooting."

Questions

1. Use the gist of this story to clearly articulate the definition and value of Interpersonal Communication. (5 marks)
2. How would understanding the JOHARI window help an individual, in light of the 17-year-old charged with the gruesome murders? Illustrate by means of a diagram and justify your answers. (6 marks)
3. There are many wrongs in this article that even go beyond communication. However, from a Family Communication Patterns theory point of view:
 - a. Describe each family type and one disadvantage of each (8 marks)
 - b. Isolate two family types and discuss how they can prevent scenarios like the one discussed in the article. (6 marks)
4. Why are the class nuggets of importance? By describing one nugget presented, illustrate how their use comes through in 2 arguments. (5 marks)

Question 2 (15 marks)

Behind closed bedroom doors, teenagers are unravelling

The Guardian. 29 Jan 2021 Gaby Hinsliff

It's never been exactly easy to get a teenager up in the morning. But behind many of our children's closed bedroom doors, something is now unravelling. During last spring and summer, parents of older children worried about them gallivanting off for rebellious lockdown-busting parties. In the dark depths of January, the fear is more for kids with all the stuffing knocked out of them; teenagers spending the whole day huddled miserably under duvets, refusing to complete online lessons, or mentally checking out. Illicit teenage parties were, of course, a health risk. But sad, withdrawn, angry young people who would rather roll over than face another day in lockdown represent a whole new medical crisis in the making.

This week, the children's commissioner Anne Longfield warned that young people's mental health services were "unable to meet demand" in a pandemic. Last weekend, a coalition of child health experts warned in a letter to the Observer that "children's welfare has become a national emergency". But these clinical terms can't capture how it feels to have a once sunny-tempered child who suddenly won't even dress or wash, let alone sit through hours of Zoom lessons, facing an ever-longer waiting list for counselling.

Unlike toddlers barrelling into Zoom conference calls, distressed youth prowling the house because they can't sleep is not the stuff of cute public anecdotes. But ask parents privately how their children are coping, and the floodgates open. Sarah has three sons, the eldest of whom is in his first year at university and is frustrated that he can't go back; the youngest, having just started secondary school, is now visibly switching off from learning.

But it's the middle one, in his GCSE year, who worries her most. He stays up too late, gaming with friends, angry and sad. "He's starting to rage against the world. Nothing makes sense any more to him. He misses his teachers and his friends," she explains. "Basically, for the first time since Covid was a word, I am now worried about the mental health of my children." Both Sarah and her husband work in education and, as she points out, if they aren't sure how to help, then families in tougher circumstances must have it far worse. "Every day it kills me thinking of the kids – ones I know, ones my husband knows – who will be having such a dreadful time."

For parents of children with special needs, meanwhile, life has become doubly difficult. Jane, whose 17-year-old and 13-year-old are both autistic, worries that years of painstaking progress are being undone. "The mental health of young people is a national emergency."

Educational provision has thankfully improved in leaps and bounds since the last lockdown, with many state as well as private schools now providing a full timetable of live lessons, at least for those lucky enough to have laptops. But concern over the emotional impact of months in isolation is rising with this second school shutdown, alongside new questions about the pressure-cooker effect of online learning.

For older teens, biologically driven to crave independence, being kettled with their parents is a particular kind of torture. So they bury themselves in gaming or Tiktok, where their friends are. But as any doom-scrolling adult knows, overdoing it on social media simply risks accelerating a downward spiral.

1. What relationship do you see exemplified between interpersonal communication and the concerns raised in this article? Offer three distinct arguments. (6 marks)
2. What do you think is implied by the last sentence? Justify your answer. (3 marks)
3. What coping mechanisms can IPC point parents and young people to? Defend any three suggestions. (6 marks)

Question 3 (15 marks)

Sexual Assault, Stalking and Suicide: The Dark Side of Tinder

14/10/2020 BY SONIA HICKEY

Last year, Victorian man Glen Hartland was sentenced to nearly 15 years in prison for sexually assaulting three women and indecently assaulting another. He pleaded guilty to the charges, after using dating app Tinder to lure his victims. One of the women has since taken her own life. And if that isn't tragic enough, just Google the subject. Assaults during meetups arranged via Tinder have been alarmingly regular in recent years. In fact, just a few weeks ago, Police charged a man in Brisbane with 10 offences including rape, sexual assault, stupefying in order to commit an indictable offence, unlawful stalking, observations or recordings in breach of privacy and drug charges.

The investigation led to the man's arrest after a complaint from a woman who believed her drink might have been spiked after a meeting at the man's apartment. The pair had met on Tinder. Video footage from the man's phone suggests that there could be other victims. Tinder has been one of the fastest growing dating apps, changing the way people meet. It's also one of the highest-earning, raking in nearly \$2 billion a year. And, amid the loneliness and isolation of COVID-19 lockdowns it has become more popular than ever before, with subscriptions climbing almost 20 percent in the year to June.

A recent survey conducted by Triple Js Hack programme had 400 responses — the majority of which said they had experienced sexual assault or harassment on a dating app.

1. Explain implicit personality theory and discuss how it can be applied to explain the concerns raised on in this article. (6 marks)
2. Consider the entire topic outline of the IPC course. Isolate 3 specific subtopics and discuss how each may help one not fall victim to abuse. (9 marks)

Question 4 (15 marks)

"All of us need to understand the importance of branding. We are CEOs of our own companies: Me Inc. To be in business today, our most important job is to be head marketer for the brand called You." – Tom Peters in Fast Company

1. What does Tom Peter's mean? (2 marks)
2. What 5 areas of your personal brand would you prioritise in line with Tom Peters' thinking on a personal brand? Justify each one. (5 marks)
3. A) Discuss the social exchange theory. (4 marks)
B) In the context of this theory, isolate any four specific communication competences which can facilitate the building of strong social, professional or familial relationships, and a therefore a personal brand. (4 marks)