

Comprehensive Case Review
Outline of Key Elements
Micro/Mezzo-Focused Exam

Exam Directions:

The purpose of the comprehensive case review is for students to integrate the core elements of their MSW education through the application of practice knowledge, skills, and values to a micro or mezzo case from your concentration year internship. The case review structure begins with an introduction of the organizational context and the client system. Next, the case review outlines the broad context of your work with the client system including relevant social identities in the social work context. The case review then moves to a review of the literature and the theoretical framework that informed the work that you did in this case. Finally, your review should highlight the specifics of your intervention practice as well as your reflections on what you learned and future practice. You are welcome to adjust the order of each section in relation to your case; however, you must discuss each section as they are outlined below.

Reminder: Your case should be from your concentration year internship.

1. Introduction (*two paragraphs maximum*)
 - Provide the name of your agency (or at least the type of agency) and the population with whom you work.
 - Identify the case, your level of involvement in the case, and whether it is a micro or mezzo level case.
 - Discuss the presenting problem and relevant client information.

2. Diversity
 - Clearly explain how you considered the client's intersectional cultural identities in one or more identities such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, social class, religion, age, geography (urban vs rural) and/or disability.
 - Discuss how these aspects of diversity impacted the case. Be sure to include the strengths of the client's culture as well as challenges that have been connected to their identities. Aspects of diversity may be relevant in the client's experiences with life, experiences with the presenting problem, relationship with the agency, relationship with you and your co-workers, and any other issues related to diversity and inclusion, power and privilege.
 - How did you or could you have appropriately responded to your work with this client in the context of culturally-responsive practice? Include an analysis of your own positionality – both similarities and differences with the client system with whom you worked.

3. Social Justice
 - Provide a brief definition of social justice and discuss how an issue of social justice that fits with the definition can be seen either in the work that you did, a policy or practice in the agency, or in people's lives with whom you worked on this case.

4. Values and Ethics

- Using the Social Work Code of Ethics, discuss how social work values and ethics did or could have shaped the work you did on this case.
5. Policy
 - Discuss how at least one federal, state, county, local or agency policy had an impact on this case. Discuss how it shaped the work you did, how it shapes the life/lives of the client(s), how it affects the work that the agency does, etc.
 6. Literature Review
 - As practitioners, we go to the literature to provide evidence for our practice. Provide an overview of the conceptual literature and/or research that guides your understanding of the client population, problem/challenge addressed, or intervention selected. In this section, you should review and cite (using APA) a **minimum of three peer-reviewed articles**, at least one of which should be an empirical research study. In discussing this study, cover the research methods used, results, and how the author(s) conclusions guided your work. You are expected to paraphrase and cite the relevant literature as well as include a reference list according to APA.
 7. Human Behavior & the Social Environment
 - Discuss a theoretical framework that did or could have guided your work on this case. Discuss how the theory offers insight about the client, the population group, the problem and/or the intervention you chose. Be sure to choose a theory that explains behavior (e.g. ecological systems theory, empowerment theory, learning theory, cognitive theory, organizational theory, etc.) and not a practice theory or model (e.g. Motivational Interviewing, Solution-Focused Practice, CBT, DBT, etc.). Make sure to clearly tie the theory to your case.
 8. Practice
 - Describe the intervention, why it was chosen, what you did, how it worked, why it was appropriate for this client based on what you learned and discussed in the literature review and your HBSE theoretical framework.
 9. Outcome Evaluation
 - How did you, or could you have, evaluated the intervention to determine if you and the client(s) were successful? This should include a discussion of what success might mean in this case.
 10. Reflection
 - Discuss what you learned from this case that might shape the work you do in the future. Identify any biases and/or emotional reactions that came up for you in working on this case. How did you manage those reactions?

