

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**  
**2016**

2016 Questions

(Select **ONE** from the following three questions)

1. Sex refers to the biological characteristics defining males and females, whereas gender refers to the socially constructed roles and activities defining males and females in a given society. Our current understanding of the factors contributing to both sex and gender is evolving rapidly. To what extent do you think that behaviors/traits considered to be predominantly “male” or “female” are based on gender and/or sex differences? Evaluate the evidence from at least three different areas of psychology that has been used to differentiate between gender and sex.
2. Although psychologists use terms such as ‘healthy’, ‘neurotypical’, or even ‘developmentally on target’, many psychologists oppose the use of the term ‘normal’. Using three areas of psychology, discuss the challenges related to defining normative, as opposed to non-normative, functioning and behavior.
3. A September 2015 headline in the New York Times reads “1 in 4 Women Experience Sex Assault on Campus.” Using your knowledge of psychology, discuss what three areas of psychology would recommend as the most informed and effective next steps on Sewanee’s campus in light of this statistic.

**List of AREAS of PSYCHOLOGY**

(Select **THREE**)

abnormal behavior  
neuroscience  
cognitive psychology  
community psychology  
developmental psychology  
diversity of human behavior (including race, ethnicity & gender)  
industrial / organizational psychology  
personality psychology  
health psychology  
positive psychology  
pseudopsychology  
social psychology

