Mindanao State University – Buug
Comprehensive Examination
Master in Peace and Development Studies

**General Instructions:**

This examination is divided into four parts: Core Theories, Applied Analysis, Development and Policy, and Research.

Answer each question comprehensively. Use concrete examples from local, national, or international contexts.

You may choose one (1) major question per section unless otherwise indicated.

Clarity, depth of analysis, and originality will be highly valued.

**Part I: Theories and Concepts of Peace**

Differentiate negative peace and positive peace according to Johan Galtung. How are these concepts relevant to the peacebuilding context in Mindanao?

Discuss at least three major peace theories (e.g., human needs theory, conflict transformation, structural violence) and evaluate their application in contemporary armed conflicts.

Explain the relationship between justice and peace. To what extent can sustainable peace exist without social justice?

**Part II: Conflict Analysis and Transformation**

Using a conflict analysis framework (e.g., conflict tree, ABC triangle, or Onion model), analyze a local conflict situation in the Philippines. Propose strategies for conflict transformation.

Examine the role of culture and identity in fueling or transforming conflicts. Provide examples of indigenous or traditional mechanisms of conflict resolution in Mindanao.

Assess the effectiveness of peace agreements (such as the 2014 CAB between the Philippine Government and the MILF). What are the strengths, weaknesses, and lessons learned for future peace processes?

**Part III: Development, Governance, and Policy**

Discuss the link between peace and sustainable development, highlighting the role of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Focus on at least two SDGs directly relevant to peace.

Evaluate the impact of governance, corruption, and inequality on peace and development. Use case studies to support your analysis.

“Peacebuilding is not only about ending wars but also about transforming societies.” Discuss this statement in the context of post-conflict reconstruction and inclusive governance.

**Part IV: Research and Practice**

Design a research proposal that addresses a current issue in peace and development (e.g., youth radicalization, climate change and conflict, gender in peacebuilding). Include your research question, objectives, methodology, and expected contribution.

Critically review at least two methodologies commonly used in peace and conflict research (e.g., participatory action research, case study, ethnography). What are their strengths and limitations in studying conflict dynamics?

Write a reflection essay on your role as a peace and development practitioner. How can your knowledge and skills contribute to building sustainable peace in your community or region?

✅ Exam Coverage Summary:

Part I – Theoretical Foundations of Peace

Part II – Conflict Analysis and Peacebuilding Practices

Part III – Development, Governance, and Policy

Part IV – Research, Application, and Reflection

**Scoring Rubric – Comprehensive Examination**
**Master in Peace and Development Studies**

**General Guidelines:**

Each major question is graded out of 25 points.

Total exam score = 100 points (4 questions answered).

Answers should demonstrate mastery of theory, application, critical analysis, and originality.

**Criteria for Scoring**

**1. Theoretical Understanding (25%)**

Demonstrates accurate knowledge of peace, conflict, and development theories.

Defines key concepts correctly and distinguishes between them.

Uses appropriate academic references or thinkers (e.g., Johan Galtung, Lederach, Sen, Freire).

**Score Guide:**

21–25: Excellent grasp, precise definitions, integrates multiple theories.

16–20: Good understanding, some minor gaps.

11–15: Limited knowledge, overly descriptive, lacks depth.

0–10: Inaccurate or superficial explanation.

**2. Application & Contextualization (25%)**

Applies theory to real-world/local/national/international cases.

Demonstrates awareness of current events, local peace processes, or development challenges.

Integrates Mindanao/Philippine context where relevant.

**Score Guide:**

21–25: Excellent use of case studies, strong contextual relevance.

16–20: Adequate examples, though somewhat general.

11–15: Limited or poorly connected examples.

0–10: No real-world application.

**3. Critical Thinking & Analysis (25%)**
Goes beyond description; provides evaluation, synthesis, or critique.

Identifies strengths, weaknesses, and implications of theories or cases.

Shows original thought, not just memorization.

**Score Guide:**

21–25: Insightful critique, multiple perspectives considered.

16–20: Reasonable analysis, but somewhat surface-level.

11–15: Mostly descriptive, minimal critical engagement.

0–10: No analysis, purely narrative.

**4. Organization, Clarity & Academic Style (15%)**
Answer is well-structured (intro–body–conclusion).

Uses clear, concise language.

Logical flow of arguments.

Proper citation of sources (if applicable).

**Score Guide:**

13–15: Excellent structure, very clear and coherent.

10–12: Generally clear, with minor lapses.

6–9: Disorganized or unclear in places.

0–5: Confusing, poorly structured.

**5. Originality & Insight (10%)**
Provides fresh perspectives or unique insights.

Demonstrates reflective thinking, especially in Part IV (Research & Practice).

**Score Guide:**

9–10: Highly original, deep insights.

7–8: Some originality, generally reflective.

4–6: Mostly generic or formulaic.

0–3: No originality or reflection.

**Overall Grading Scale**
90–100 (Excellent): Mastery of theory, application, and critical thought.

80–89 (Very Good): Strong performance with some room for deeper insight.

70–79 (Satisfactory): Adequate, but lacks depth in analysis or application.

60–69 (Fair): Minimal competence; descriptive with little critical engagement.

Below 60 (Poor): Weak, inaccurate, or incomplete responses.