

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
LABEL HERE

CANDIDATE No:.....

Instructions for Candidates

Scenario

You have been asked to attend the police cells to see Martin Willis, who is a 32-year-old man with learning disability, who has been charged with assault 24 hours ago. The alleged victim required an overnight stay in hospital and 18 stitches for a head injury.

He has been remanded in custody and is due to appear in court tomorrow. The court wishes to know if he is fit to plead.

Instructions

Determine his fitness to plead.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO HAND YOUR IDENTITY LABEL TO THE
EXAMINER**

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AFFIX CANDIDATE
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History Taking: Fitness to Plead

CANDIDATE No:.....

Instructions for Patients

Answer questions based on the following scenario.

Do not volunteer information unless asked.

This station tests the candidate's ability to take a history from a patient, and be able to ask specific questions to determine legal status.

You are Martin Willis, a 32-year-old man with mild learning disability.

Key Attributes

Although you have learning disability, this is mild. Your only real indication of this is a relatively simplistic choice of language, and a difficulty understanding complex arguments that may be put forward by the candidate.

If the candidate asks complex, or compound questions, you should act a little flustered, giving fairly stock answers of "I don't know".

History of Offence

- Yesterday you were out drinking with some of your friends in town, and got into an argument with someone in the pub. You think that he accused you of drinking his beer, but you deny this.
- The argument went on for a few minutes, and ended when he called you a "stupid jerk"
- When he and his friends walked away laughing, you grabbed a pool cue and hit him over the head, knocking him unconscious
- You had had about 4-5 pints of beer. You were angry at the man and thought that he deserved it. You think that he should be punished for laughing at you.
- You don't really understand why the police have arrested you and don't think that you did anything wrong. You are sorry that you hurt him though

Understanding of court procedures

- You have never been in court before and don't really understand what goes on in court
- You have seen court programmes on television, but don't properly understand who does what
- You know that the judge is in charge and that lawyers speak to him. You don't know why someone else has to tell the judge what you did, and you get anxious about someone else talking about you in court
- You think that if you plead guilty that you will go to prison, and you don't want to do this
- You say that you want to say you are not guilty.

Personal History

- You live in your own tenancy and are relatively independent.

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Instructions for Examiners

***REMEMBER TO ASK THE STUDENT FOR THEIR IDENTITY LABEL AND
AFFIX IT TO THE TOP OF THE MARK SHEET.***

This OSCE station looks at the candidate's ability to answer the specific question about a patient's fitness to plead. The candidate will need to be able to:

1. Demonstrate awareness of the factors affecting fitness to plead
2. Sensitivity in eliciting such factors in a difficult patient

Station Number

Examiner's Name:

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Marking Sheet

Please circle the appropriate mark for each criterion. The standard expected is that of a psychiatric Senior House Officer.

Criterion	Performed competently	Performed, but not fully competent	Not performed		
Approach to the patient – Rapport, empathy, and style	2	1	0		
Does accused know what they have been charged with?	3	1 ½	0		
Does accused know why they have been charged?	2	1	0		
Does accused know the difference between pleading guilty and pleading not-guilty?	3	1 ½	0		
Does accused know how to instruct counsel?	3	1 ½	0		
Is accused able to follow court proceedings?	3	1 ½	0		
Overall Approach to Task	4	3	2	1	0

Score (Max 20)

Overall Grading of station

Clear Pass

Borderline

Clear Fail