

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE  
LABEL HERE

CANDIDATE No:.....

### Instructions for Candidates

#### Scenario

You have been asked by the courts to see David Riddell, a 25-year-old man who has been charged with serious assault.

#### Instructions

Ask him relevant questions to assess the risk of future offending. **Do not conduct a mental state examination.**

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

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History Taking: Risk Assessment – Violent Offence

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, asking specific questions to determine risk factors for future violent behaviour.

You are David Riddell, a 25-year-old man.

#### Key Attributes

You are an arrogant and garrulous young man, sure of yourself, and resentful of being seen by a psychiatrist. You realise, however, that the court has made you speak to one, and you will answer questions with a bit of encouragement.

#### Key Dialogue

You have a girlfriend of 9 months, and a 4-year-old child to a previous 6 month relationship.

#### *The Offence*

- The offence occurred in a pub, when you thought that someone was talking about you.
- You didn't really know him, but you thought he was a friend of someone you don't like.
- You went over to him, challenged him, and quickly hit him in the face with a glass, before kicking him to the ground. You had to be pulled off him by your friends.
- You had been drinking heavily at the time (around 8-10 pints of beer over the course of the afternoon). You had also smoked a couple of joints.

#### *Mental State*

- You show little remorse for the man's injuries, saying that you really didn't do anything to him – it was your mates that did most of the damage. You feel that he deserved what he got.
- You don't think that you should be convicted as it was self-defence. You believe that the police have always had it in for you.
- You drink regularly in the pub in question, and believe it to be 'your' ground. You continue to express anger at the victim and his mates, saying that if they come round again, you'll give them a "good kicking". You don't think that you could stop yourself if you saw them again.

### *Personal History*

- In terms of personal history, your mother walked out when you were six due to your father's violence towards her.
- Your father was frequently violent and verbally abusive of you. You hate him and have no contact.
- In your childhood, you were seen by a child psychologist because of bedwetting.
- You were expelled numerous times from school for firesetting and torturing the school animals.
- You haven't had a job lasting more than six months because you frequently lose your temper with your workmates, resulting in dismissal.
- You are currently sleeping on a mate's floor. You haven't had your own flat for months, after assaulting the landlord.
  
- You normally drink about 10 pints at the weekends, but don't drink much during the week. You smoke 1/8 ounce of cannabis every week. You have used speed in the past, but not recently.

### *Forensic history*

Your forensic history includes:

- 12 offences of Breach of the Peace; 4 of assault; 3 of serious assault.
- Your most recent offence was last year. You were convicted of serious assaulted and received a sentence of 12 months. You served 8 months in prison.

### *Personality*

- You have always been quite an impulsive person – for example, smashing up a machine when you were sacked from a previous job. You don't like waiting for things, and tend to act on the spur of the moment. You have sometimes gotten into debt because you wanted to buy things.
- You get angry when people put you under stress, and often react aggressively.

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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 is a station which tests:

1. The candidate's knowledge of risk factors associated with reoffending for a violent offence.
2. Skills in rapidly establishing trust and rapport.
3. Ability in asking sensitive questions from a potentially hostile interviewee.

**The candidate is not expected to do a detailed mental state examination.**

Station Number

Examiner's Name:

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History Taking: Risk Assessment – Violent Offence

CANDIDATE No:.....

### 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
<b>Approach to the patient – Rapport, empathy, and style</b>	2	1	0
<b>Index Offence (one point for each, up to a maximum of 3):</b>			
• Location, people involved, timing, triggers	1	½	0
• Drugs or alcohol involved	1	½	0
• Degree of violence involved	1	½	0
• Lack of provocation	1	½	0
<b>Current circumstances (one point for each, up to a maximum of 3):</b>			
• Ongoing alcohol/ drug misuse	1	½	0
• Social difficulties, e.g. homelessness	1	½	0
• Lack of support	1	½	0
• Likelihood of same precipitants occurring again and patient's ability to control them	1	½	0
<b>Past Forensic History (one point for each, up to maximum of 2):</b>			
• Previous forensic history, especially of violent offences	1	½	0
• Severity of last offence	1	½	0
<b>Current Mental State (one point for each, up to maximum of 3):</b>			
• Lack of guilt or remorse	1	½	0
• Denial over offence	1	½	0
• Ongoing thoughts of violence, or an expressed wish to harm others	1	½	0
• Paranoid beliefs	1	½	0
• Lack of insight and/ or unwillingness to engage or comply	1	½	0
<b>Personality (one point for each, up to a maximum of 3):</b>			
• History of impulsive behaviour	1	½	0
• Lack of self-control	1	½	0
• Difficulties coping with stress	1	½	0
• Problems delaying gratification	1	½	0
• Helman's Triangle (bedwetting, firesetting, and cruelty to animals in childhood)	1	½	0
<b>Overall Approach to Task</b>	4	3	2
	1	0	
Score (Max 20)			
Overall Grading of station	<b>Clear Pass</b>	<b>Borderline</b>	<b>Clear Fail</b>