

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
LABEL HERE

CANDIDATE No:.....

Instructions for Candidates

Scenario

Ed Larson, a 32-year-old man, has been referred to hospital with recent psychotic symptoms. He has had a schizo-affective illness for the last 10 years, and has had numerous admissions to hospital. He is currently on a depot antipsychotic and a mood stabiliser.

His illness is compounded by co-morbid alcohol and drug misuse.

Instructions

Assess his insight.

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

Station Number

AFFIX CANDIDATE
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Mental State Examination: Insight

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 examine specific aspects of the mental state.

You are Ed Larson, a 32-year-old unemployed man.

Key Attributes

You are generally cooperative with the candidate's enquiry. You are a little over-confident that you won't be kept in hospital, however. You are ebullient, overtalkative, and a little grandiose.

Key Dialogue

Your symptoms are as follows:

- You missed your last dose of depot medication 2 ½ weeks ago, and have not been taking your Valproate tablets. You have gone out every time your community psychiatric nurse (CPN) was due to visit.
- Over the last fortnight, you have been quite anxious and suspicious. You believe that the medication you were taking was suppressing your awareness of what was really going on.
- You believe that your memory has been wiped as part of a top-secret FBI programme to defeat terrorism in the UK. You believe that your 'handlers' can transmit instructions to you, as well as read your thoughts. You have not seen your handlers directly, but you know that they are about.
- You think that the psychiatric services knew of your secret identity and were trying to brainwash you and medicate, in an attempt to get secret information out of you. You believe that you are one of the best secret agents in the UK.

- You do not think that you are unwell, and that the medication has "opened your eyes to the truth". You don't accept that you have schizo-affective disorder.
- You do not think that you are mentally ill.
- You do not agree that you need medication. It made you sleepy when you took it before, and you would not be willing to take any tablets.
- You are not willing to stay in hospital as you "have work to do". You don't feel safe in hospital anyway.

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Mental State Examination: Insight

CANDIDATE No:.....

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 is designed to test the following skills:

1. Awareness of the different aspects of insight
2. Ability to inquire into a patient's insight
3. Ability to demonstrate perseverance, as well as tact, when interviewing the patient.

Good marks will be given for a collaborative approach to patient's lack of insight, with sensitive but challenging questions.

Station Number

Examiner's Name:

.....

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CANDIDATE No:.....

Mental State Examination: Insight

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 | | |
| Brief history of symptoms, and reasons for referral | 3 | 1 ½ | 0 | | |
| Awareness of symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks patient about their awareness of, and relationship to their symptoms | 3 | 1 ½ | 0 | | |
| Attribution of symptoms to mental illness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks patient whether they are able to accept that these symptoms could be due to mental illness | 3 | 1 ½ | 0 | | |
| Willingness to accept treatment for illness (one point for each, up to a maximum of 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudes towards medication and other treatment • Asks about side effects/ previous experiences | 1 | ½ | 0 | | |
| Accepts consequences of illness (i.e. need for admission into hospital) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks about patient's willingness to be admitted to hospital | 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