

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

MD (PSYCHIATRY) EXAMINATION (2008 PROSPECTUS)
SEPTEMBER 2019

Date:- 24th September 2019

Time:- 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

STRUCTURED ESSAY PAPER

Answer all six (06) questions.

Each question to be answered in a separate book.

1. The high court has requested you to provide a report on the mental state of a mother in prison who has killed her first baby at three weeks of age. On examination she is perplexed and says that she fulfilled her responsibility by “getting rid of the devil as the baby was possessed by demons”. She further states that she was told by God to kill the ‘devil’ who will bring bad luck to her family.
 - 1.1. Outline the clinically relevant facts that you would elicit in the history to arrive at a diagnosis and determine the risk. (20 marks)
 - 1.2. List the psychiatric legal issues that need to be addressed in the report that you need to submit to Court. (30 marks)
 - 1.3. The husband asks you whether he should divorce his wife. How will you respond to this question? (20 marks)
 - 1.4. Discuss the legal construct of criminal responsibility of the alleged accused, with the help of the relevant section of the penal code of Sri Lanka. (30 marks)
2.
 - 2.1. Briefly describe the difference between gender and sex. (20 marks)
 - 2.2. A 14-year-old girl consults you with a complaint of being attracted to same sex individuals.
List and justify the steps of your management of this girl. (20 marks)
 - 2.3. Describe the management of a transsexual patient who seeks help in changing his sex to that of a female in the Sri Lankan setting. (60 marks)

3.
 - 3.1. What are the clinical features that will help to differentiate bipolar depression from unipolar depression? (40 marks)
 - 3.2. Discuss the options for treatment of bipolar depression. (40 marks)
 - 3.3. Discuss the options for treatment of depression in a patient one month after a myocardial infarction. (20 marks)
4.
 - 4.1. Outline the factors that contribute to secure attachment in early childhood. (40 marks)
 - 4.2. List the disorders of attachment. (10 marks)
 - 4.3. How would you differentiate the above disorders of attachment from other neurodevelopmental disorders in childhood? (20 marks)
 - 4.4. Briefly explain the ethical principles in relation to adoption of a child. (30 marks)
5.
 - 5.1. List five (05) cognitive factors that may contribute to the causation of social phobia. (20 marks)
 - 5.2. Outline the components of cognitive behavioural treatment of a patient diagnosed with panic disorder. (40 marks)
 - 5.3. List the essential elements of psychological assistance of a victim of a natural disaster such as a landslide. (40 marks)
6. You are a consultant psychiatrist, and Dr. Thomas is a final year registrar working with you. Over the last 2 months, he has been more distracted and irritable. He has also been presenting as untidy in his appearance. Nursing staff have complained that he has been rude to them. Patients have now also started complaining about his manner. You decide to meet him and think you may have smelt alcohol on his breath.
 - 6.1. Discuss what further information you would seek to understand this situation. (30 marks)
 - 6.2. Outline what interventions and further plans you would discuss with Dr. Thomas. (30 marks)
 - 6.3. Outline the key ethical and professional issues highlighted by this situation. (40 marks)

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SEPTEMBER 2019

Date :- 23rd September 2019

Time:- 1.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.

ESSAY PAPER

Answer only **one (01)** out of **three (03)** questions.

1. “Maternal mental health services in Sri Lanka are well developed”. Critically analyse this statement and give your opinion.

2. “A comprehensive mental health service needs to cater to the growing needs of its service users with personality disorders. However, this is not possible in Sri Lanka, mainly due to budgetary and other constraints”. Critically analyse this statement and give your opinion.

3. “Cure sometimes, relieve often, comfort always”. Critically analyse this statement and give your opinion in relation to the practice of psychiatry in Sri Lanka.