Modified Essay Questions

MARKING GUIDE

AUGUST 2023

Modified Essay 4

Each question within this modified essay will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking this question will not have access to your answers to the other questions. Therefore, please ensure that you address each question separately and specifically. Answer this question fully, even if you believe that you have partly covered its content in your answers to other questions.

You are a junior consultant psychiatrist working with a rural service. You receive a call from your team’s Stage 3 registrar who is about to conduct their first unaccompanied monthly outreach clinic serving a remote Indigenous community of around 400 people.

The registrar is supported by an Indigenous Health Worker who lives in the community and is locally identified with one of the three main families in the area.

Question 4.1

Outline (list and justify) potential advantages and disadvantages of working with an Indigenous Health Worker when serving a remote Indigenous community.

Please note: a list without justification will not be awarded any marks. (11 marks)

A. Advantages: Communication

- Improve clinician/patient understanding of the other’s language.
- Improve clinician/patient understanding of the other’s cultural experience.
- Improve clinician/patient understanding of psychiatric phenomena including psychopathology, treatment, diagnosis, and prognosis.
- Communicate with elders and other socially important/relevant actors.
- Contribute to/assist with developing a cultural formulation.

B. Advantages: Engagement

- Facilitate occurrence of clinical interview.
- Facilitate sources of collateral information.
- Advice and feedback on approach to clinical interview including location, language, and social supports.
- Consideration of cultural healing or use of traditional healers.

C. Advantages: Background

- Knowledge of social environment including:
  - Local pattern of substance use/abuse.
  - Social power relations.
  - Knowledge of specific social obligations, responsibilities, or conflict affecting patient.

D. Potential disadvantages:

- Effect of IHW’s social role on clinical encounter, particularly where IHW or their kin is in conflict or competition with patient or their kin.
- Decreased engagement.
- Decreased trust in community.
- Concerns about confidentiality.
- Bias in role of interpreter associated with IHW’s social role.
- Inaccurate language translation.
- Misinterpreted cultural meaning.
- Conflict of interest between patient and IHW.

E. SPARE

F. CANDIDATE DID NOT ATTEMPT

G. DID HANDWRITING AFFECT MARKING?

NOTES TO EXAMINER

- SPARE: Only to be used after approval from Co-Chairs, Writtens Subcommittee.
- DID NOT ATTEMPT: If the candidate did not attempt this question, fill in ONLY the CANDIDATE DID NOT ATTEMPT bubble. No other bubbles should be filled in.
- MARKS: This question is worth 11 marks, however, a total of greater than 11 is acceptable.
- CHECK: You have marked one bubble for each sub question and initial the box once you have completed marking.

References:

Dudgeon et al (2014) - Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice
- Table 13.3 p233
- p378 - Communication with elders about interventions

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Modified Essay 4
The information that is presented in italics in this question is a repetition of the earlier sections of the case vignette.

You are a junior consultant psychiatrist working with a rural service. You receive a call from your team’s Stage 3 registrar who is about to conduct their first unaccompanied monthly outreach clinic serving a remote indigenous community of around 400 people.

The registrar is supported by an Indigenous Health Worker who lives in the community and is locally identified with one of the three main families in the area.

The registrar reminds you that they will be conducting their first community review of Selwyn, a 23-year-old male patient following his return to the community from a secure forensic mental health unit. He had been admitted under a forensic order two years previously following an assault on an elderly relative during an episode of psychosis associated with methamphetamine use. Although the forensic order was imposed in the context of a schizophrenia diagnosis, at discharge a change of diagnosis was being considered to moderate Intellectual Disability of unknown cause with specific deficits in impulse control and verbal reasoning. The patient has responded well to a small dose of an atypical antipsychotic medication with no recorded side effects.

**Question 4.2**
Outline (list and justify) dynamic factors associated with the likelihood of Selwyn being incarcerated in the future. Please note: a list without justification will not be awarded any marks. (12 marks)

A. **Social factors:**
- Secure accommodation – insecure accommodation could increase Selwyn’s vulnerability.
- Stable relationships with key social supports, particularly formation of a cultural identity consistent with local community; connectedness to community and family is an identified protective factor.
- The family’s understanding of mental illness/deficits and understanding of Selwyn’s assault on an elderly relative/forgiveness.
- Peer groups, including exposure to deviant peer groups.
- Financial security improves Selwyn’s engagement in pro-social activities.
- Exposure to high-risk activities (substance abuse, criminal activity).
- Employment and/or pro-social activities (meaningful daily activity), particularly culturally meaningful and community-led activities.
- Community behavioural expectations and community relationship with law enforcement.
- Access to culturally-congruent rehabilitation opportunities.
- Generational and cultural exposure to incarceration.
- Institutional racism and discrimination are rife in communities affected by colonialism.

B. **Clinical factors:**
- Physical health: includes engagement with/access to primary health care to improve his chances of remaining connected and healthy.
- Engagement with/access to/adherence with mental health care including psychiatry, adherence to medication.
- Stability of mental state, Selwyn’s cognitive disability increases the risk of impairments in mental state with consequent impulsivity and frustration with verbal reasoning problems.
- Access to indigenous health worker support to facilitate care.
- Reliable diagnosis with targeted intervention particularly on:
  - Impulse dyscontrol.
  - Communication problems (adapting communication to ensure greater understanding such as with the use of written materials, pictorials, and/or checking back with Selwyn to ensure any information shared has been understood by everyone including the clinicians).

C. **Legal factors:**
- Ongoing imposition of forensic order.
- Access to diversion programs/indigenous courts (Note: at the time of writing, no indigenous courts exist in New Zealand).
- Access to Indigenous Legal Service (Note: at the time of writing, no indigenous-specific legal services exist in New Zealand).
- Offending behaviour.
NOTES TO EXAMINER

- SPARE: Only to be used after approval from Co-Chairs, Writens Subcommittee.
- DID NOT ATTEMPT: If the candidate did not attempt this question, fill in ONLY the CANDIDATE DID NOT ATTEMPT bubble. No other bubbles should be filled in.
- MARKS: This question is worth 12 marks, however, a total of greater than 12 is acceptable.
- CHECK: You have marked one bubble for each sub question and initial the box once you have completed marking.

References:
Dudgeon et al (2014) - Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice

- Chapter 10 - Mental Disorder and cognitive disability in the criminal justice system