

# Modified Essay **QUESTIONS**

## Modified Essay 1

*(31 marks)*

**Each question within this modified essay question will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking one 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 at a community mental health service. Bill is a 71-year-old widower living alone in his own unit. He presents to his General Practitioner with a three-month history of feeling unwell with constipation, churning stomach and poor sleep. The GP can find no physical cause for Bill's symptoms and commences him on sertraline 50mg daily. After six weeks, Bill is no better and the GP refers him to your clinic. Bill attends your clinic for assessment, although he is sure his GP has missed a physical illness. He describes feeling listless and fatigued, having problems concentrating, and worrying about his physical state. He expresses the view he is a burden on his children and would be better off dead. He has severely restricted his food intake because he believes eating is aggravating his constipation.

### **Question 1.1**

**List important factors in assessing Bill's risk of harm to himself.**

*(6 marks)*

***Please write your response on page 2 of the answer book***

After your initial assessment, you make a provisional diagnosis of major depressive disorder. Bill tells you he does not want to be admitted to hospital for treatment.

### **Question 1.2**

**List clinical factors which would be important in determining whether inpatient treatment is required.**

*(5 marks)*

***Please write your response on page 10 of the answer book***

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## Modified Essay 1 (cont.)

### **Question 1.3**

**Discuss (list and debate) possible strategies for pharmacological management of Bill's illness.**

*Please note: a list with no debate will not receive any marks.*

*(10 marks)*

***Please write your response on page 15 of the answer book***

In collaboration with Bill's general practitioner, you decide Bill should be admitted to hospital, to which he eventually agrees. He is admitted to the general acute mental health unit under your team.

### **Question 1.4**

**Describe (list and explain) the instructions you would give to the nursing staff in their assessment of Bill.**

*Please note: a list with no explanation will not receive any marks.*

*(10 marks)*

***Please write your response on page 19 of the answer book***