

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

M.Sc.

M.Sc. Psychiatric Research: Written Examination

COURSE CODE : PSYR0001

DATE : 13-JUN-05

TIME : 14.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

MSc in Psychiatric Research Examination

2005

Each of the 3 sections below (A, B and C) carries an equal number of marks. Please answer all 3 sections.

Section A – Short Notes

You should answer **ALL** the questions in this section. Spend no more than 10 minutes writing short notes on each.

1. List **two advantages and two disadvantages** of using a randomised controlled trial design (as opposed to a non-randomised comparative study) to evaluate an intervention designed to increase rates of employment among the severely mentally ill by providing them with a specialist training in jobseeking skills.
2. You wish to carry out an investigation of the prevalence of depression in dementia and the factors associated with it:
 - a. Describe **three criteria** which you will use in assessing whether it is ethical to include in your study people who lack capacity to give informed consent.
 - b. Can potential participants' carers give informed consent on their behalf? Briefly explain your answer.
3. Define **sensitivity, specificity, negative predictive value and positive predictive value**. Outline how you would investigate the sensitivity and specificity of a newly designed brief screening instrument for mania, designed to be used in population surveys.
4. A recent study has found that **Black African and Black Caribbean** people are more likely to be compulsorily admitted the first time they come into contact with mental health services than **White** people. Describe **two advantages and two disadvantages** of using ethnic categories such as White, Black African and Black Caribbean in epidemiological and mental health services research.
5. List **four criteria** you would use to judge whether a case control study is of good methodological quality.

Section B Protocol planning – quantitative methods

Answer one question only within this section. Include aims, the hypothesis or hypotheses you are testing, methods, an outline analysis plan and a brief summary of the main advantages and disadvantages of your protocol. You do not need to include costings in your protocol, but you may assume that your study budget, though not limitless, is reasonably large (up to around £500,000 if required). Include an outline of your aims

1. It has been suggested that parental divorce during adolescence is a risk factor for depression in early adulthood. Outline a protocol which would allow you to investigate this.
2. A recent study has suggested that abuse of the elderly occurs more frequently in countries that have less well developed community services, and that this may be linked to greater carer stress because of lack of support from services. Outline a protocol which would allow you to investigate this.
3. A pilot study indicates that a structured package of relapse prevention work based on cognitive behavioural therapy principles may reduce the likelihood of relapse among people with bipolar affective disorder. Outline a protocol which would allow you to investigate this.

Section C Protocol planning – qualitative methods

Answer one question only within this section. Include aims, study questions, a description of how you would approach analysis, and a summary of the main advantages and limitations of your protocol. You do not need to include detailed costsings, but you can assume that your study budget, though not limitless, is reasonably large (up to £300,000 if necessary).

1. An epidemiological investigation has indicated that refugees and asylum seekers from central Africa are less likely than other refugees and asylum seekers to seek help from health services if they are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms. Outline a protocol which would allow you to begin exploring potential reasons for this.
2. Outline a qualitative investigation which would allow you to understand more about the factors that are important in clinicians' decisions to detain patients under the Mental Health Act.
3. Outline a protocol that would allow you to explore why some people reduce their substance use following an episode of psychosis thought to have been triggered by drugs while others continue to use drugs as much as before.