

-SQA- SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**Hanover House
24 Douglas Street
GLASGOW G2 7NQ**

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

-Module Number- 7177041 -Session-1991-92
-Superclass- PK

-Title- CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY: THE INDIVIDUAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

-DESCRIPTION-

Purpose A student completing this module will have been introduced to the study of Psychology and will be in a position to undertake further modules in this area and progress to undertake a practical investigation.

This module has been designed as part of a series of modules at different levels of demand which accredit competence in Psychology. The series was designed to facilitate entry to Higher Education. However, the modules in the series may be used in their own right with senior school pupils, adult returners and those whose employment requires them to develop a psychological perspective.

Preferred Entry Level No formal recommendations for entry but students may benefit from 7177011: Introduction to Psychology which may be offered concurrently with this module.

Outcomes The student should:

1. explain how psychology can be used to contribute to the understanding of mental health;
2. describe the main methods of research used by clinical psychologists;
3. identify applications of clinical psychology in the treatment of mental disorder.

Assessment Procedures Acceptable performance in the module will be satisfactory achievement of all the Performance Criteria specified for each Outcome.

The following abbreviations are used below:

PC Performance Criteria
IA Instrument of Assessment

Note: The Outcomes and PCs are mandatory and cannot be altered. The IA may be altered by arrangement with SQA. (Where a range of performance is indicated, this should be regarded as an extension of the PCs and is therefore mandatory.)

OUTCOME 1 EXPLAIN HOW PSYCHOLOGY CAN BE USED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL HEALTH

- PCs
- (a) The selection of concepts from clinical psychology which can be applied to mental health in individuals is relevant.
 - (b) The application of selected concepts from clinical psychology is appropriate.

IA Extended Response

The student will be asked to prepare a report of 300 to 500 words on a study which contributes to an understanding of at least one area of mental disorder. The report should contain a description of how the study was carried out, what the results of the study were and what conclusions can be drawn from it.

Satisfactory performance will be that the student achieves all the Performance Criteria correctly.

OUTCOME 2 DESCRIBE THE MAIN METHODS OF RESEARCH USED BY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

- PCs
- (a) Identification is made of the case study method of research used in clinical psychology, in contrast to other methods.
 - (b) The description of the case study method of research used in clinical psychology is accurate.
 - (c) The advantages and disadvantages of the case study methods are identified accurately.

IA Multiple Choice Questions and Restricted Response

Performance Criterion (a) will be assessed by the student being presented with 8 multiple choice items in which all 4 methods of research are represented. The student will be required to distinguish those which use case study methods of research from the other types of research methods.

Performance Criteria (b) and (c) will be assessed by the student describing case study methods of research in approximately 150 words.

Satisfactory performance will be that the student achieves all Performance Criteria correctly.

OUTCOME 3

IDENTIFY APPLICATIONS OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY IN THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDER

PCs

- (a) The identification of appropriate areas of clinical psychology which could assist in understanding given mental disorders, is accurate.
- (b) The application of concepts in clinical psychology is consistent with recognised psychological usage.

IA Extended Response

The student will be presented with a choice of case studies which illustrate problems where clinical psychology methods and concepts have been applied. The student will provide an accurate analysis of the chosen problem, using ideas from clinical psychology and identify the treatment strategies which have been used.

Satisfactory performance will be that the student achieves all the Performance Criteria correctly.

**The following sections of the descriptor are offered as guidance.
They are not mandatory.**

CONTENT/CONTEXT

Corresponding to Outcomes 1-3:

1. Students should be introduced to models of abnormality, such as: Statistical, Medical, Behavioural, Cognitive, Psychodynamic and Social. The implications of the use of these models. The classification, old and new, of mental disorders.
2. Explanation of what is meant by research methods. The methodology which should be emphasised in this module is:
 - (i) Surveys/Questionnaires/Interviews;
 - (ii) Experimentation - field/laboratory;
 - (iii) Observation - participant/non-participant;
 - (iv) Case Study.

The case study method should be actively contrasted with the other methods, highlighting the relative advantages and disadvantages of this method.

3. A choice of case studies should be presented to students to illustrate problems where clinical psychology methods and concepts are applied, eg. the presenting symptoms of a number of different mental disorders.

SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

Videos, demonstrations, experiments, teacher exposition, case study, text books and other written resources. Fact sheets and question and answer sessions should be used to test the students' understanding. Visiting speakers and visits to hospitals, clinics and university teaching units, where clinical psychological concepts are used, may also be usefully included.

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