

MSE Cheat Sheet

ABC STAMP LOCKER

Appearance
Behavior
Cooperation
Speech and Language
Thought Process and Thought Content
Affect
Mood
Perception
Level of Consciousness
Orientation
Cognition – (Judgment & Insight, Attention & Cooperation, Memory, Abstraction & Calculations)
Knowledge Base
Endings – (Suicide/Homicide)
Reliability

MSE Examples from Bell & Hall

Delusions

Paranoid: “Have you had the feeling that there is something going on in this room that is different from what we are telling you? Do you feel people are watching you?”

Persecutory: “Do you often get the feeling that someone might be trying to harm you, might be out to get you?”

Alien control: “Do you sometimes get the feeling that there is an outside force or person in control of your thoughts or body?”

Thought insertion, broadcast, withdrawal: “Do you sometimes have the feeling that others are putting thoughts into your head against your will?” “Do you ever feel that your thoughts are being broadcast out into the room and can be heard by others? That someone is stealing thoughts out of your brain so that you can’t think them?”

Hallucinations

Auditory: “Do you ever have thoughts so loud that they sound like voices talking to you or about you?”

Visual: “Do you ever see things which are unusual, like people or animals that aren’t there?”

Tactile: “Do you ever have unusual feelings on your body, like you are being touched?”

Gustatory, olfactory: “Do you ever experience odd or unusual smells or tastes?”

Illusions

“Are there times when things you look at or listen to seem to change for no apparent reason? Do shadows frighten you?”

Cognition

Memory, short-term: “I’m going to give you an address to remember and in three minutes I’m going to ask you to repeat it to me.”

Immediate recall (digit-span): “I’m going to give you some numbers and I want you to repeat them back to me.” (Start with 3, then 4, etc)

Reversals: “Now I’m going to give you some numbers and I want you to repeat them to me – backward. For instance, if I say 1-2-3, you say _____?” (Sometimes done with a word.)

Concentration: Serial 7s (Count backwards from 100 by 7s)

Calculation: “How much change?”

Judgment/Insight

Personal: “If you were walking down the street and found an envelope on the sidewalk which was stamped, addressed, and sealed, what should you do?”

Social: “If you were in a crowded theater watching a movie and you smelled smoke and saw fire, what should you do?”

Abstraction

Similarities: “I’m going to give you the names of some things and I’m going to ask you how they are alike. For instance, if I asked, ‘How are a table and a chair alike?’ you might say that they are both pieces of furniture. Now how are a hammer and a saw alike?” (Good: both are tools. Fair: both are made of metal and have sharp edges, etc. Bizarre: both are used to cut up corpses, etc.)

Absurdities: “I am going to make a statement and I want you to tell me what you think about it – not what you think it means, simply what you think about the statement itself.” Statements such as these could be made: “Because his feet are too big, Joe puts his pants on over his head” and “They found the skull of Columbus as a six-year-old boy in Spain.”

Proverbs Often Don’t Work.