

PSY 440-001 Take Home Questions 1

Directions for Undergraduate Students: Answer 1 of the questions from Section A for 15 points. Answer 1 of the questions from Section B for 10 points. Answer 1 of the questions from Section C for 5 points. Your responses should adequately address all aspects of the question. The questions in Section A should be answered in 2 to 3 pages of typewritten, double-spaced text, while the answers to questions in Sections B and C should be answered in 1 to 2 pages of typewritten, double-spaced text. Be sure to review the web page for specific directions and guidelines for answering questions. Be sure to include your name on your answers.

Answers are due at the beginning of class Friday, February 28, 2025.

Section A

1. Read the following case study:

Benjamin Dover is a 44-year-old, single, unemployed, white man brought to the emergency room by the police for striking an elderly woman in his apartment building. His chief complaint is, "That damn bitch. She and the rest of them deserved more than that for what they put me through."

The client has had continuous difficulties since age 22. During his first year of law school, he gradually became more and more convinced that his classmates were making fun of him. He noticed that they would snort and sneeze whenever he entered the classroom. When a girl he was dating broke off the relationship with him, he believed that she had been "replaced" by a look-alike. He called the police and asked for their help to solve the "kidnapping." His academic performance in school declined dramatically when he began all-night surveillance on her apartment, and he was asked to leave law school and seek psychiatric care.

Mr. Dover got a job as an investment counselor at a bank, which he held for seven months. However, he was receiving an increasing number of distracting "signals" from co-workers, and he became more and more suspicious and withdrawn. It was at this time that he first reported hearing voices telling him that the others were after him and wanted to see him fired. Mr. Dover began making the "sign of the evil eye" at his co-workers in an effort to reduce their power over him. He was eventually fired, and soon thereafter was hospitalized for the first time, at age 24.

Mr. Dover has been hospitalized 12 times, the longest stay being eight months. However, in the last five years he has been hospitalized only once, for three weeks. During the hospitalizations he received various medication regimes, including Thorazine, Risperdol, Clozaril, and Zyprexa. Although outpatient medication has been prescribed, he usually stops taking it shortly after leaving the hospital. Aside from twice-yearly lunch meetings with his uncle and his contacts with mental health workers, he is totally isolated socially. He lives on his own and manages his own financial affairs, including a modest inheritance. He reads the *Wall Street Journal* daily. He cooks and cleans for himself.

Mr. Dover maintains that his apartment is the center of a large communication system that involves all three major television networks, his neighbors, and apparently hundreds of "actors" in his neighborhood. There are secret cameras in his apartment that carefully monitor all his activities. When he is watching television, many of his minor actions (e.g., going to the bathroom) are soon directly commented on by the announcer. Whenever he goes outside, the "actors" have all been warned to keep him under surveillance. Everyone on the street watches him. His neighbors operate two different "machines." One is responsible for all of the voices he hears, except the "joker." He is not certain who controls this voice, which "visits" him only occasionally and is very funny. The other voices, which he hears many times each day, are generated by one of two machines. He believes one of the machines is directly run by the neighbor whom he attacked. For example, when he is going over his investments, these "harassing" voices constantly tell him which stocks to buy. Many times, the voices are distracting and give him bad advice. The other machine he calls "the dream machine." This machine puts erotic dreams into his head, usually of "black women."

Mr. Dover describes other unusual experiences. For example, he recently went to a shoe store 30 miles from his house in the hope of getting some shoes that wouldn't be "altered." However, he soon found out that, like the rest of the shoes he buys, special nails had been put into the bottom of the shoes to annoy him. He was amazed that his decision concerning which shoe store to go to must have been known to his "harassers" before he himself knew it, so that they had time to get the altered shoes made up especially for him. He realizes that great effort and "millions of dollars" are involved in keeping him under surveillance. He sometimes thinks this is all part of a large experiment to discover the secret of his "superior intelligence."

At the interview, Mr. Dover is well-groomed, and his speech is coherent and goal-directed. His affect is, at most, only mildly blunted. He was initially very angry at being brought in by the police, but calmed down with the administration of medication.

1. What diagnosis would you give Benjamin Dover? What are the diagnostic criteria of the disorder? What behaviors does Ben exhibit that meet these criteria? What other disorders (and diagnostic criteria) would you need rule out in order to be confident in your diagnosis of Ben? Tell why you believe Ben does not meet criteria for these disorders. Finally, discuss the treatment you would recommend for Ben in order to treat the disorder from which he suffers.

Section B

2. Explain the purpose of psychological diagnosis. Discuss how the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) is used to help therapists and counselors make an accurate psychological diagnosis. Finally, briefly discuss the problems and limitations of the diagnostic process and/or the DSM-5.
3. Identify and discuss the six criteria that are used to define abnormal behavior. Which do you think are the most important when determining whether behavior is abnormal? Include your rationale for this choice.

Section C

4. You are a noble in London in 1753. Write a journal entry that describes your visit to St. Mary's of Bethlehem. Be sure to describe what you see and your reactions to it.
5. In class, we discussed how treatment for psychopathology/abnormal behavior logically derives from what the cause of that behavior is believed to be. Assume you are a shaman in cave man times. Describe how you would help a tribesmate who is reacting to things that are not there and talking to people who are not there?

Bonus Points Opportunity:

6. Scavenger hunt time! Provide the following for me: (2 points)
 1. A quote from Clifford Beers' "A Mind That Found Itself"
 2. A picture of Phillipe Pinel.
 3. The name of the people who discovered/created the first medication for schizophrenia
 4. A picture of the guy who directed the movie "A Beautiful Mind"
 5. The name of the guy who wrote the book "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"