

# COverview of the Assessment Process

- An Assessment has the following parts:
- Referral Question
- Clinical Interview
- Mental Status Exam
- Intellectual Assessment
  - Achievement Assessment
- Personality Assessment



- Assessment
  - The overall process of determining a client's capabilities
- Evaluation
  - Sitting with a client to determine capabilities
    - The specific session



- Testing
  - Applying a given set of problems to a client to determine capabilities



- Sine Qua Non of assessment
- Comes from a number of sources
- Provides the basis for completing the assessment
  - o Evaluations change based on what the referral question asks
- Examples



- presenting problem
- Helps to provide a diagnosis
- Gives the first data point
- Single most important means of data collection
- Main task is to identify the 

  Can do with a number of people:
  - Client
  - Family members
  - Teachers
  - Former therapist

### Interview vs. Conversation

- Interview is designed to obtain certain goals
- Interview may require discussion of unpleasant thoughts, feelings, or events
- Interviewer is in control
- One-sided

7



### Structured vs. Unstructured Interviews

- - Increased reliability & validity
  - Decreased flexibility
  - May miss idiosyncratic
  - May increase defensiveness and resistance
  - Allows for comparisons
  - Used in research and clinical settings
  - Can be scored by computer

- Unstructured
  - Decreased reliability & validity
  - Increased flexibility
  - o Picks up idiosyncratic information
  - Increases rapport
  - Creates favorable changes and encourages self-exploration
  - Used in clinical settings

8

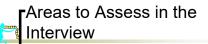


### Hints to Help

- Use open-ended questions
- Only ask a single question
- Talk in the client's language
- Choose the right probing question
  - Avoid "Why"
  - Focus on facts
- Avoid negative phrasing

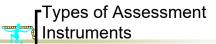


- Encourage precision
- Keep questions brief
- Keep on the lookout for new leads



- Here is where you include information from the clinical interview
  - Psychological/emotional History
  - Suicide Assessment
  - Medical history
  - Alcohol and drug use Family history
    Developmental history

  - Social history
  - Education history
  - Employment history
  - Sexual history Legal history
  - Financial history



- Use both idiographic and nomothetic instruments
  - o Idiographic—look at the unique aspects of the individual
  - Nomothetic—look at how the individual compares to the populaion.

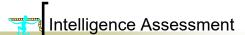


- First description of client
  - Describes from outside (more objective) to inside (more subjective)
- Areas:
  - Attitude, Behavior, and Activity
  - Mood, Affect, and Emotional Reactions
  - Speech and Language
  - Thought Process, Content, and Perception

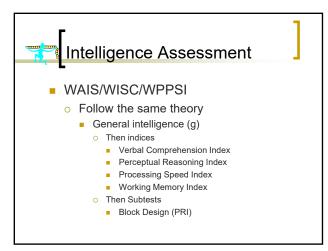


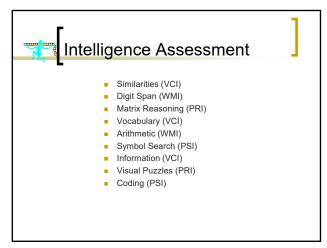
- Sensorium
- Cognitive and Mental Functioning
- o Insight and Judgment
- Mini-Mental Status Examination (MMSE)
  - o 30-item brief measure of mental status
  - But not the ONLY way you assess mental status

14



- An evaluation of a client's cognitive function
- Major tests:
  - Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale/ Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children/ Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence
  - Stanford-Binet
  - Kaufman Adult Intelligence Test/Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children









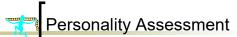
- An assessment of a client's academic abilities
- Major Tests:
  - Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement
  - Wechsler Individual Achievement Test



- Areas assessed
  - Math
    - Calculation
    - Applied Problems
  - Reading
    - Reading Comprehension
    - Reading Rate
  - Writing
    - Written Expression
    - Spelling



- An assessment of the qualities that comprise an individual's personality and components of psychopathology
- Two types:
  - Projective tests
  - Objective tests



- Major Projective Tests
  - o Rorschach Inkblot Test
    - Exner Comprehensive System
  - Thematic Apperception Test
  - Incomplete Sentences
  - House-Tree-Person Projective Test



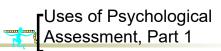
- Major Objective Tests
  - Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory
  - Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory
  - Personality Assessment Inventory



- Neuroticism, Extraversion Openness Personality Inventory
- Narrow Band Assessments
  - Psychopathology:
    - Depression
      - Beck Depression Inventory
    - Anxiety
      - Beck Anxiety Inventory







- High Stakes Testing
  - Usually assessments involve making decisions about what happens in people's lives
- Learning Disability Assessment
  - Primary School
  - Secondary School
  - Tests

## Uses of Psychological Assessment, Part 2

- Social Security Disability Testing
  - Mental Disability
  - Tests
- Parenting/Custody Evaluations
  - Court involvement
  - Dangers
  - Tests

28

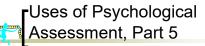
### Uses of Psychological Assessment, Part 3

- Medical Evaluations
  - Bariatric Surgery
  - o Pain Management Surgeries
    - Pain Pump
    - Spinal Stimulator
  - Tests

29

# rUses of Psychological Range Assessment, Part 4

- Forensic Evaluations
  - Competency to Stand Trial
  - Insanity
    - Not Guilty By Reason of Insanity
    - Guilty But Mentally III
  - Tests



- Diagnosis
  - What we usually think of when we think assessment
  - Tests
- Treatment Outcome
  - How we determine if psychotherapy is effective
  - Tests

