

Psychology, Health & Medicine Open Book Examination Guidance notes 2018-19:
Assessment information and Assessment Criteria

Purpose of assessment:

You will be assessed on the extent to which you have demonstrated the following learning outcomes
1. Understanding of how theories of social cognition can be used to understand and influence specific health behaviours
2. Ability to discuss how the biopsychosocial model informs our understanding of health behaviours and physical health problems
3. Presenting work appropriate for the academic conventions expected

Exam Structure

The exam is a two-hour open book exam. This means that you can bring the following in to the examination hall with you to help you construct your answers:

- Your core textbook for this module (Ayers, S., & de Visser. (2011). *Psychology for Medicine*. London: SAGE).
- One small A4 ring binder with lecture notes, journal articles, revision notes

You will be presented with a choice of four scenarios. Each scenario has two questions linked to it (see mock exam questions on Moodle for example of question format and allocated marks).

You must choose TWO SCENARIOS and answer BOTH questions relating to those scenarios. Be aware of the weighting (marks allocated to each question) when preparing your answer.

The answers you provide to each question must include appropriate empirical and theoretical references in the text (a reference list at the end of each question is NOT needed).

Exam preparation

You must revise in advance of the exam, using the recommended readings around the lecture content and your own wider reading to ensure you can demonstrate depth of knowledge and critical evaluation in order to meet the learning outcomes. In order to prepare for the exam you need to focus on the following areas covered within the lectures and seminars for this module and reviewed in the final module review lecture.

Please see the appendix at the end of this document for further information about how to prepare for open book exam.

Appendix: Further Guidance: What is an open book exam?

In Open Book Exams, students are allowed to bring notes, texts, and/or other resources into the exam room. They test your ability to find and apply information. Students often have wrong ideas about these exams, such as:

“I don’t need to study much for my exam because the information will be right there for me to look up”

OR

“All I’ll need to do in the exam is copy the answers out of the text.”

- Open book exams tend to ask students to apply, analyze, synthesize, compare/contrast or evaluate information. They test whether you understand the “big picture” of the course and how course concepts work together.
- The instructor will be looking for well-structured and presented arguments or solutions.

How should I prepare?

- Learn your material as thoroughly as you would for any other exam.
- Organize your resources so that you can find the information you need efficiently, without wasting precious time
- Decide what you are going to bring in (make sure you know what you are ALLOWED to bring with you).
- Bringing excessive materials may distract you, clutter your workspace, and tempt you to waste time by looking up facts unnecessarily.
- Write key concepts on sticky notes and use these as tabs to index your textbook, notes, and other materials so you can find them quickly.
- Prepare a condensed set of notes, or summary of the course.

What should I keep in mind while writing these exams?

- There may be sufficient time to quickly refer to materials, but not to learn something new – such as a particular theory or the relationships between various course concepts – from your materials during the exam.
- Copying long passages or quotes is a waste of time; instead, paraphrase and condense any information you find in your materials.
- Aim for concise, well-supported answers.
- If you have time for review at the end, you may check your materials more extensively to verify accuracy or to find additional points.

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