

01	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E
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34	☐ A	☒ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E
35	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☒ E
36	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☒ D	☐ E
37	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☒ D	☐ E
38	☐ A	☒ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E
39	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☒ E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

ADDCD

PSFR

Forensic Psychology

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for ADDCD PSFR, each with its answer key and an explanation.

Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, PSFR
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

MULTIPLE CHOICE

A forensic psychologist is appointed by a court to assess a defendant's competency to stand trial. Which of the following activities fall within the scope of this evaluation? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Determining whether the defendant presently has a rational and factual understanding of the proceedings against them.
- ☐ **B** Rendering a final judgment on the defendant's guilt or innocence based on the psychological assessment.
- ☒ **C** Assessing whether the defendant possesses sufficient present ability to consult with counsel with a reasonable degree of rational understanding.
- ☐ **D** Recommending a specific prison sentence length based on the defendant's diagnosed condition.
- ☐ **E** Conducting a long-term outpatient psychotherapy regimen as a condition of bond.

ANSWER A - C

WHY Competency to stand trial, as defined by the Dusky standard long used in U.S. courts, requires the evaluation of (1) the defendant's present rational and factual understanding of the proceedings and (2) the present ability to consult with counsel with a reasonable degree of rational understanding. Forensic psychologists do not determine guilt or innocence (that is the trier of fact), do not recommend sentence length, and providing ongoing psychotherapy is a treatment role rather than a forensic evaluation role.

QUESTION 2

MULTIPLE CHOICE

A clinician is asked to serve simultaneously as a treating therapist for an insanity acquittee and as the forensic evaluator who will later testify about that same person's mental state at the time of the offense. Which ethical concerns arise from this dual role? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Therapeutic alliance may cause the clinician to minimize pathology when later testifying in a forensic capacity.
- ☐ **B** The dual role clearly enhances objectivity because the clinician knows the client best.
- ☒ **C** Conflicting obligations of confidentiality and disclosure to the court are created.
- ☐ **D** Insanity acquittees are categorically prohibited from receiving any psychological treatment.
- ☐ **E** The clinician would be required to release the entire psychotherapy record to opposing counsel under any circumstance.

ANSWER A - C

WHY Combining treatment and forensic roles is widely discouraged because (1) the therapeutic alliance can bias testimony by encouraging minimization of symptoms, and (2) the clinician faces conflicting duties: confidentiality owed to the patient in treatment versus the duty of candor and disclosure owed to the court in a forensic role. Option B is incorrect because familiarity with a client typically reduces, rather than enhances, objectivity. Option D is false; treatment is often a condition of release for insanity acquittees. Option E overstates disclosure rules; release of records is governed by court order, relevance, and applicable privilege rules rather than automatic release.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

Under the M'Naghten rule, which cognitive prong must the defendant be shown to have been laboring under at the time of the act to support an insanity defense?

- ☐ **A** An inability to control conduct despite knowing it was wrong.
- ☒ **B** A defect of reason due to a disease of the mind such that the defendant did not know the nature and quality of the act, or did not know it was wrong.
- ☐ **C** A lack of substantial capacity to appreciate the criminality of conduct or to conform conduct to the law.
- ☐ **D** A diagnosis of any personality disorder meeting DSM criteria.

ANSWER B

WHY The M'Naghten rule is a cognitive test focused on whether, due to a defect of reason from a disease of the mind, the defendant did not know the nature and quality of the act or did not know it was wrong. Option A describes the irresistible impulse test (a volitional, not cognitive, prong sometimes added to M'Naghten). Option C describes the Model Penal Code (MPC) substantial-capacity test, which is broader. Option D is incorrect because a DSM diagnosis alone is not sufficient under M'Naghten.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

A defendant is found incompetent to stand trial and is committed for treatment to restore competency. Which standard governs the limit on how long a defendant charged with a non-capital offense may typically be confined for this purpose?

- ☐ A The defendant may be confined for an unlimited period until competency is restored.
- ☒ B The defendant may not be confined for a period longer than the maximum sentence for the charged offense, consistent with the principle articulated in *Jackson v. Indiana*.
- ☐ C Confinement is limited to a fixed 90 days regardless of charge.
- ☐ D Confinement is permitted only when the defendant voluntarily consents to inpatient treatment.

ANSWER B

WHY *Jackson v. Indiana* held that an incompetent defendant cannot be held in custody for a period longer than the maximum term of imprisonment that could be imposed for the offense with which they are charged, absent special circumstances. This prevents indefinite civil-commitment-like detention on criminal charges. Option A is the practice the Court forbade; Option C misstates the rule; Option D describes a civil commitment scenario, not competency restoration.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

When using a structured actuarial violence risk assessment instrument such as the HCR-20, which statement best describes its intended use?

- ☐ A It produces a precise prediction that should replace clinical judgment in every forensic report.
- ☒ B It provides structured, empirically informed estimates of risk factors to support, but not replace, professional judgment.
- ☐ C It determines legal outcome, such as whether a defendant is sentenced to prison.
- ☐ D It can be completed solely from a single self-report questionnaire with no collateral data.

ANSWER B

WHY Structured actuarial tools such as the HCR-20 (Historical, Clinical, Risk Management-20) are designed to guide structured, evidence-based estimation of violence risk by combining historical, clinical, and risk-management factors. They are intended to inform—not replace—professional judgment, and they do not determine legal outcomes. They also rely on multiple sources of information rather than a single self-report measure.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

Under the Daubert standard, which factor is the trial judge expected to consider when determining the admissibility of expert psychological testimony?

- ☒ A Whether the theory or technique has been subjected to peer review and publication.
- ☐ B The expert's personal opinion about the defendant's character.
- ☐ C Whether the jury would find the testimony interesting.
- ☐ D The expert's years of practice in any unrelated profession.

ANSWER A

WHY Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals identified several factors for the trial judge's gatekeeping role, including whether the theory or technique has been tested, subjected to peer review and publication, has a known or potential error rate, and has gained general acceptance in the relevant scientific community. Personal opinion about character, jury interest, and unrelated professional experience are not Daubert factors.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

Research on eyewitness memory has most consistently demonstrated which of the following?

- ☐ A A confident witness is always accurate, regardless of viewing conditions.
- ☐ B Memory for peripheral details is generally more accurate than memory for central details.
- ☒ C Memory is reconstructive and can be distorted by post-event information such as leading questions.
- ☐ D Eyewitness memory is immune to stress effects when the witness is trained.

ANSWER C

WHY Eyewitness memory research (e.g., Loftus on the misinformation effect) consistently shows that memory is reconstructive and can be altered by post-event information such as misleading or leading questions. Confidence is not a reliable indicator of accuracy (Option A), central details are typically remembered better than peripheral details (Option B), and high stress generally impairs accuracy (Option D).

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

In many U.S. jurisdictions, when a court is deciding child custody, which standard is most commonly applied?

- ☒ A The best interests of the child standard.
- ☐ B The parental rights absolute standard.
- ☐ C The beyond-a-reasonable-doubt criminal standard.
- ☐ D The strict chronological order of legal marriage standard.

ANSWER A

WHY U.S. custody decisions are typically governed by the best-interests-of-the-child standard, considering factors such as the child's safety, emotional needs, stability, and each parent's caregiving capacity. The other options are not the operative legal standards for custody determinations.

QUESTION 9

SINGLE CHOICE

A forensic psychologist is conducting a court-ordered evaluation. Which statement best describes the limits of confidentiality in this context?

- ☐ A Confidentiality is identical to that in therapy; nothing may be disclosed to the court.
- ☒ B The evaluator should clarify in advance that confidentiality is limited because information will typically be shared with the retaining party and, ultimately, with the court.
- ☐ C Confidentiality extends only to the evaluator's spouse.
- ☐ D The evaluator may unilaterally decide to keep all findings sealed.

ANSWER B

WHY Because forensic evaluations are conducted for a third-party purpose (the court or retaining attorney), confidentiality is limited. Ethical practice requires informing the evaluatee at the outset—typically through a written notice or opening of the evaluation—that information gathered will be shared with the retaining party and may be disclosed in legal proceedings. The other options misstate how confidentiality operates in forensic contexts.