

T Level Technical Qualification in Health

Occupational specialism assessment (OSA)

Supporting the Mental Health Team

Assignment 3 – Professional discussion

Provider delivery guide

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Assignment 3

Professional discussion

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Conducting the professional discussion

Assessment conditions

- during the preparation time, provider's staff will distribute the assessment materials (themes and questions) so that students can select an appropriate reflective account to support the professional discussion and make notes on the template provided
- during the 45 minutes, students will make notes to support their discussion. This should be immediately prior to the discussion
- students will use assessment materials provided and their own reflective account portfolio to produce notes that will support and guide their answers appropriately
- students are allowed to use this preparation time to make notes but may only have access to their reflective account portfolios
- there is no limit on the amount of notes that students can take into the discussion, but the intention is that this assessment reflects an authentic professional conversation. Excessive, script-style notes are likely to hinder rather than benefit the student, especially when spontaneous questions are asked
- there should be no unsupervised period between the preparation and the professional discussion

Use of questioning

During the discussion, the different parts of each question (for example, question 1, part A and part B) should be asked chronologically to support structuring the student's answer. When stated, the student will have to refer to the same example in both parts but can also draw on multiple examples from their experiences in the classroom or on their work placement to illustrate their point.

The discussion supervisor has the opportunity to ask 3 questions per theme (refer to assessment materials for question content). Before moving on to the next theme, the discussion supervisor must also ask if the student would like to add or clarify anything as the student cannot return to a theme once the discussion has progressed to the next theme. This brings the total to 4 questions per theme, and 12 questions per discussion.

It is important that the discussion supervisor is able to have a two-way conversation with the student while also ensuring that the assessment remains fair for all students. Students are permitted to take notes into the assessment room to support their discussion.

The acceptable questions are not subject-specific but are instead based on the reflective cycle and are designed to elicit fuller responses and further detail.

When using the questions, please note the following:

- the discussion supervisor can ask up to 3 clarification questions per theme, adapted from the list provided
- the discussion supervisor must also ask an additional clarification question before moving on to the next theme or completing the assessment
- the discussion supervisor may repeat questions in different themes
- the discussion supervisor may repeat or rephrase questions if requested
- all questions must be asked in the allotted 1 hour

- questions can be asked at any point during a theme; however, you cannot return to a previous theme once you have moved onto the next theme

In the conversation, the discussion supervisor should choose the most appropriate keywords to form their questions.

Questions

The discussion supervisor should use a maximum of 3 questions constructed from the list below and ask an additional question before moving on to the next theme.

The wording of questions can be amended to suit the discussion supervisor's tone. The bullet points below are suggestions for alternatives, but the core message and content should not be altered to change or combine questions.

Can you describe what happened?

- when
- where
- who
- what
- why
- what were the results

How did you feel you impacted on the situation?

- during/before/after
- feelings of others
- difference in current perspective

Can you evaluate your experience?

- executed well/not well
- your contributions positive/negative
- others' contributions positive/negative

Can you analyse what happened with reference to your own knowledge, skills, and behaviours?

- strengths and weaknesses
- knowledge and learning
- evidence-based practice

What conclusions can you draw from the situation?

- learnings
- improve outcomes
- knowledge and skill gaps

What actions are planned for next time?

- future changes
- develop skills and knowledge
- appropriate knowledge and next steps
- feedback from others

Final question (essential to include)

Is there anything else that you would like to:

- add
- clarify
- reflect
- share
- contribute

SAMPLE

Information for tutors

Professional discussion questions

Please complete the details below clearly and in BLOCK CAPITALS.

	Significant learning experience discussed
Theme 1	
Theme 2	
Theme 3	

Student name	
Provider name	

Student number		Provider number	
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Please read the following out to the student

You will be asked 4 questions for each theme. The questions are divided into sub-parts but the marks will be for the question as a whole. Each theme is worth 32 marks.

The professional discussion will be recorded, and the discussion marked by an external examiner. It should last no longer than 1 hour.

Please take your time to answer the questions. You can ask me to repeat the question once. Remember you can refer to your prepared chosen reflective accounts throughout the professional discussion. Are you ready to start the assessment?

We will start with theme 1.

Themes and questions for the professional discussion

The themes and questions that will form the basis of the professional discussion for this series are below.

Theme 1: communication and safeguarding

Question 1

Part A

Reflecting on your own experiences and learning, explain why communication between professionals is important for patient care.

Part B

Discuss a range of barriers to communication in mental health settings, referring to your own experiences and learning.

(12 marks)

Question 2

Part A

Reflecting on your own experiences and learning, outline why person-centred care is important for patients in relation to safeguarding.

Part B

Reflecting on your own experiences and learning, explain the link between data protection and the Care Act (2014) for the purpose of safeguarding patients.

(20 marks)

Theme 2: assisting the mental health team with mental health tasks and therapeutic interventions

Question 3

Part A

Referring to your own experiences and learning, discuss mental health tasks and therapeutic interventions that you have assisted with.

Part B

Reflecting on your own experience and learning, explain the benefits of early intervention in the care and treatment of an individual.

(12 marks)

Question 4

Part A

Referring to your experience and learning, evaluate the extent to which national guidelines and local service frameworks enable safe, professional practice in mental health settings.

Part B

Referring to your own experience and learning, discuss the importance of reflecting on your own practice when assisting with mental health tasks and therapeutic interventions.

(20 marks)

Theme 3: providing care and support to individuals with mental health conditions

Question 5

Part A

Referring to your own experience and learning, discuss how undertaking physiological measurements contribute to the effective care and support of an individual with a mental health condition.

Part B

Referring to your own experience and learning, explain the importance of observing, recording, and reporting changes in the mental health of individuals when providing care and support.

(12 marks)

Question 6

Part A

Referring to your own experiences and learning, describe proactive approaches to managing challenging behaviours when providing care and support to individuals.

Part B

Referring to your experiences and learning, evaluate your own learning experiences in relation to the care and support of individuals with mental health conditions, including your strengths and areas for improvement.

(20 marks)

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Change History Record

Version	Description of change	Approval	Date of issue
v1.0	Additional sample material.		01 September 2023
v1.1	Sample added as a watermark	November 2023	16 November 2023