

# Modified Essay **QUESTIONS**

## Modified Essay 5

*(18 marks)*

**Each question within this modified essay will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking this question will not have access to your answers to the other questions. Therefore, please ensure that you address each question separately and specifically. Answer this question fully, even if you believe that you have partly covered its content in your answers to other questions.**

You are a junior psychiatrist employed by a community mental health service. You have come to assess Mrs Cross, a 72-year-old woman who lives in a retirement village. During the home visit, you find Mrs Cross cooperative but confused and mildly irritable. She appears dysphoric and is a little unsteady on her feet.

She scores 21/30 on Mini Mental State Exam with deficits in short term memory (0/3), attention and concentration (2/5), comprehension and visuospatial orientation. There is very poor performance on testing of frontal lobe function. Clock drawing test is abnormal. There is perseveration and deficits in abstract thinking, planning, organisation and visual memory. Her hearing and vision are normal.

You find the following list of Mrs Cross' medications: amitriptyline, L-dopa/carbidopa and atenolol.

### **Question 5.1**

**Describe (list and explain) the aetiology of the diagnoses you would consider.**

*Please note: a list with no explanation will not receive any marks.*

***(6 marks)***

***Please write your response on Page 72 of the MEQ answer book.***

### **Question 5.2**

**Describe (list and explain) the principles of good prescribing practice in the older patient.**

*Please note: a list with no explanation will not receive any marks.*

***(7 marks)***

***Please write your response on Page 76 of the MEQ answer book.***

Mrs Cross is admitted and treated in an older persons' facility. Her son visits briefly from overseas and suggests that his mother makes a will.

### **Question 5.3**

**List the factors which need to be taken into consideration when deciding if Mrs Cross has testamentary capacity to make a will.**

***(5 marks)***

***Please write your response on Page 81 of the MEQ answer book.***

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