



**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS**

MOCK WRITTENS ESSAY PAPER 2019

(Produced by the New Zealand Training Programmes)

CANDIDATE'S NAME:

DATE:

DIRECTIONS:

Please use a black or blue ball-point pen. Write your responses in the following pages. Write on the lined pages only. Answers written on blank pages will not be marked.

Your answer is to be contained within the lines applicable to that question or on the supplementary sheets provided.

You can request additional spare pages from the invigilator if needed. Write your name on the top of any extra page, and the question and sub-question number, and interleave the page into the booklet at the appropriate place.

Do not use the scrap paper provided to add any additional pages – always ask the invigilator for additional pages.

CRITICAL ESSAY

Critical Essay Question: (40 marks)

In essay form, critically discuss this quotation from different points of view relevant to the practice of psychiatry and provide your conclusion.

"Persons near or over the age of fifty lack, on the one hand, the plasticity of the psychic processes upon which the therapy depends – old people are no longer educable".

Sigmund Freud, Selected Papers on Hysteria and Other Psychoneuroses, Chapter VIII, On Psychotherapy. (pub. 1912)

(Quoted in: 'Psychotherapy and the older person' by Neil Raveen Jeyasingam, Australasian Psychiatry Jan 26, 2017)

A series of 30 horizontal lines for writing.

MODIFIED ESSAY QUESTIONS

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Modified Essay Question 1 contd.

Each question in this MEQ will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking one question will not have access to your answers to the other questions. Please answer each question fully and separately.

Several hours later, you receive another call from the registrar saying Amy has now been returned by police, having been retrieved from railway tracks where she had lain down. She was compliant with the police returning her to hospital. She now presents as quiet and calm, saying the crisis has passed. She says she wants to go home and sleep, denying a need to return to hospital. The police emphasise their annoyance at their ongoing involvement and state their opinion that Amy should be placed under the Mental Health Act and admitted. The registrar has also talked by phone with Amy’s mother, who is fearful that Amy will kill herself and is asking for her to be readmitted.

Question 1.4 (6 marks)
Outline (list and elaborate) your immediate and medium-term management plan.

MODIFIED ESSAY QUESTION 2 (24 marks)

Each question in this MEQ will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking one question will not have access to your answers to the other questions. Please answer each question fully and separately.

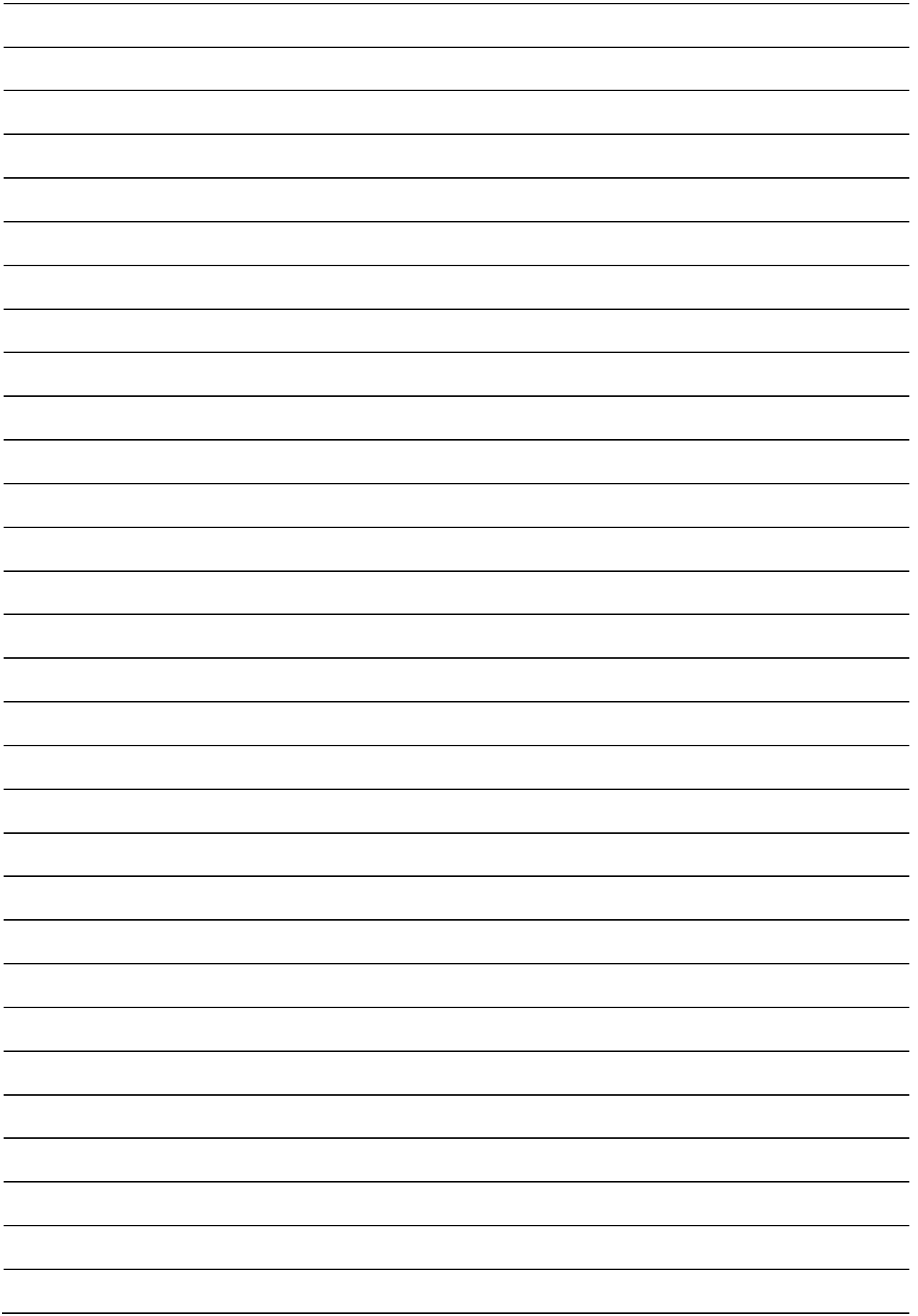
You are working for the local child and adolescent mental health service that provides liaison to the government child protection services. You are asked to see Jacek, an 8 year old boy who has recently been placed with a new set of foster parents after his fourth placement broke down. He was removed from his mother aged 10 months, with concerns he was significantly neglected due to her substance use problems. His new foster parents Ian and Melinda have requested an early review with child psychiatry as they are aware of previous difficulties with Jacek at school and in his foster homes. Ian and Melinda are experienced foster parents with no other children currently placed with them. They have begun work on routines around eating and sleeping. So far Jacek has been quiet at home, wanting to retreat to his room. They have found packets of their dry pasta as well as biscuits moved from their pantry and placed under his bed.

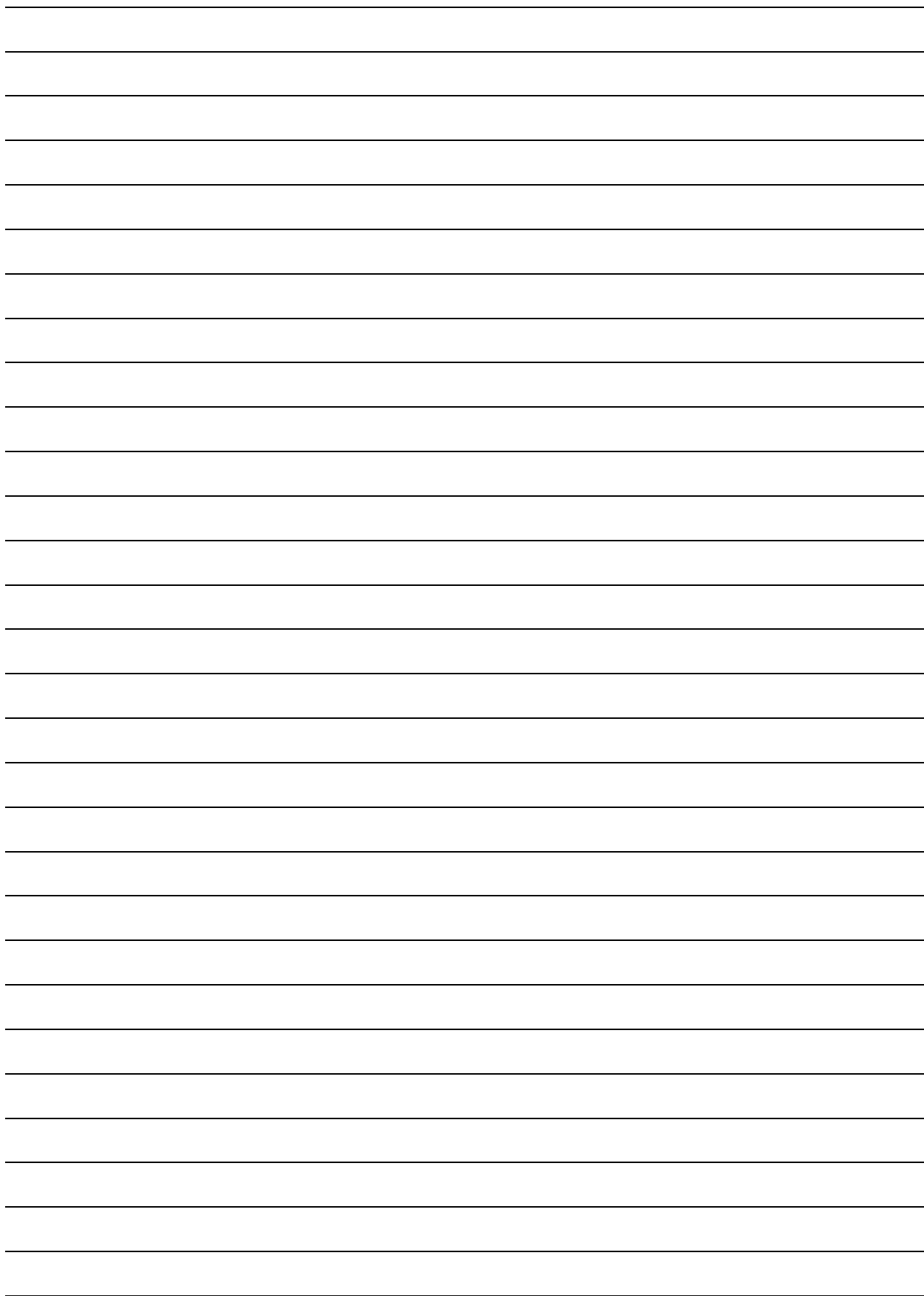
Ian and Melinda have enrolled Jacek in their local primary school. They say he has had some basic assessments and apparently his reading is at year 2 level (six year old), he is not holding a pen well, and he struggles with writing. He is noted to be restless and easily angered in class, having already bitten another child in the first two weeks of school.

You arrange an assessment and school observation.

Question 2.1 (6 marks)

List the key differential diagnoses you would plan to gather information on in your assessment.





Modified Essay Question 2 contd.

Each question in this MEQ will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking one question will not have access to your answers to the other questions. Please answer each question fully and separately.

You arrange a classroom observation and Conner's rating scale, both of which suggest Jacek has ADHD. The Child Welfare Services staff hold his guardianship, and you decide to discuss with them whether Jacek should have a trial of stimulant treatment, or whether non-pharmacological management strategies should be used.

Question 2.5 (3 marks)

List the non-pharmacological management strategies you would suggest for Jacek.

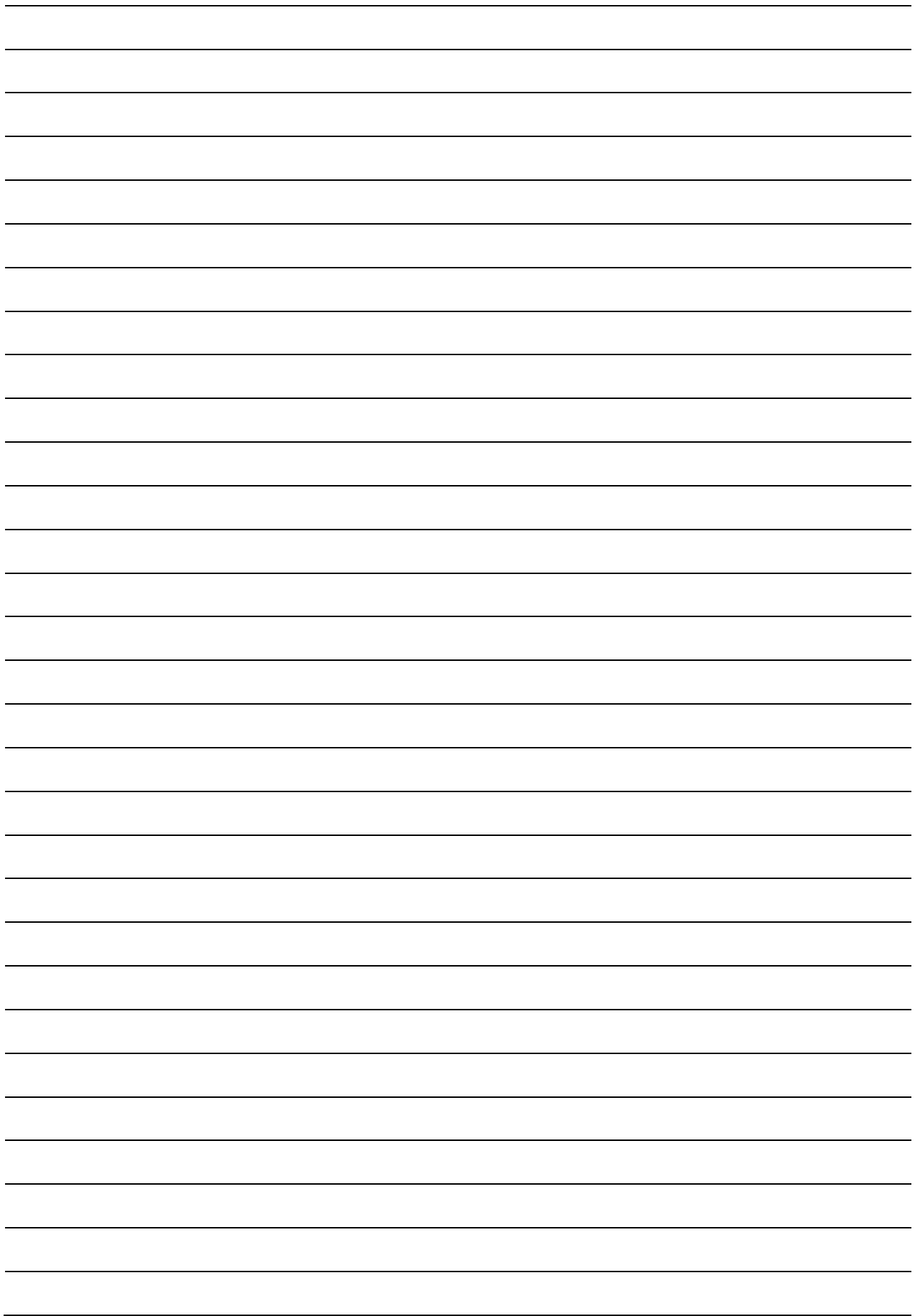
MODIFIED ESSAY QUESTION 3 (30 marks)

Each question in this MEQ will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking one question will not have access to your answers to the other questions. Please answer each question fully and separately.

You are the on call consultant for a small mental health service and you are asked to see Liam, a 35 year old man brought to hospital by the police. This follows an incident where he took his clothes off and exposed himself to neighbours. Liam presents with paranoid delusions of being under surveillance, as well as bizarre behaviour. His forearms are covered with sores where he has been trying to dig things out of his arms. He was recently discharged after an inpatient admission for a drug-induced psychosis after smoking methamphetamine, and has not attended arranged follow-up. Liam recently lost access to his children and has been asked to leave the family home. He is now living with his sister who has young children.

Question 3.1 (14 marks)

Outline (list and justify) your risk assessment for Liam.





Modified Essay Question 3 contd.

Each question in this MEQ will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking one question will not have access to your answers to the other questions. Please answer each question fully and separately.

Liam is no longer under the Mental Health Act, and has yet to see the drug and alcohol treatment team. The inpatient unit is very full so Liam needs to be discharged quickly. Liam drives heavy earth-moving equipment for a living, and wants to return to work as soon as possible because he is very short of money.

Without any income he will also need to remain at his sister's house which is stressful for everyone, and one of her children is taking methylphenidate for ADHD.

His employer has asked for a medical clearance for Liam to return to work.

His probation officer has also asked for a report, as he has just been charged with indecent exposure.

Question 3.3 (6 marks)

Describe your approach to managing information sharing in this situation, with Liam's sister, employer, and probation officer.

Modified Essay Question 6 contd.

Each question in this MEQ will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking one question will not have access to your answers to the other questions. Please answer each question fully and separately.

(repeated from Q. 6.1)

You work on a Liaison team and are called to the Emergency Department (ED) to assess Yasmin, a 25 year old Iranian woman brought to hospital from a Women’s Refuge, where she had been for 24 hours. She has two children aged 8 and 11, who have remained at the Refuge in the care of the staff. ED staff tell you that she has been badly beaten and has many bruises, and evidence of old fractures to facial bones.

They have requested a consult as Yasmin has been largely mute since arrival at ED, often flinching away from staff, especially male staff. At times if left unattended she has gesticulated and muttered to herself and they feel she is confused and disorientated.

The Refuge staff member accompanying her was not able to communicate with her while at ED and has had to return to the Refuge. Before leaving she told ED staff that a few hours ago Yasmin’s speech and grasp of English seemed reasonable and they had not needed an interpreter. She described Yasmin as initially caring well for her children then becoming more withdrawn and complaining of a headache in the hours before coming to hospital, seeming confused, frightened and at times retching.

Refuge staff had been unable to obtain much personal history except that she is married and afraid to return to her husband’s household as she says he beats her. On glancing into the cubicle you see Yasmin is huddled on a gurney wearing a hospital gown, with her hands over her eyes. A uniformed male security watch is sitting beside the door to her room.

Question 6.3 (6 marks)

Outline (list and justify) the three most important differential diagnoses to consider in Yasmin’s case.

