

St. Clare College

Autonomous, Bengaluru

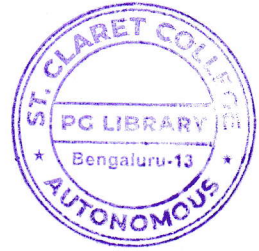
PG END SEMESTER EXAMINATION-JUNE/JULY 2026

MSc PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING SEMESTER II

MPC 2225: PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Roll No:

Date:



TIME: 3 hours.

MAX. MARKS: 70

This paper contains THREE printed pages and THREE parts

Instructions:

1. Verify and ensure that the question paper is completely printed.
2. Any discrepancies or questions about the exam paper must be reported to the COE within 1 hour after the examination.
3. Students must check the course title and course code before answering the questions.

PART-A

Answer FOUR questions out of SIX. Each answer carries FIVE marks.

[5x4 = 20]

1. Detail out the genetic model of psychopathology.
2. Elucidate the clinical features of adjustment disorder.
3. Summarize delusional disorders with its types.
4. Articulate the dimensional view of personality disorders with its advantages.
5. Contrast the diagnostic categories of substance-use.
6. Explain the effect of cannabis on thought, mood and behavior.

PART-B

Answer any TWO questions out of THREE. Each answer carries TEN marks.

[10x2=20]

7. Case study:

Rohan is a 12-year-old boy studying in Grade 5. His teachers have noticed that he has difficulty understanding classroom instructions, learning new concepts, and completing academic tasks independently. While most children in his class can read simple stories and perform basic arithmetic, Rohan struggles with reading comprehension, counting money, and telling time.

His parents report that he was slower than other children in reaching developmental milestones. He started speaking in short sentences only around the age of 4 years and required assistance with self-care activities such as dressing and managing personal hygiene for longer than expected. Although he is friendly and enjoys interacting with others, he often relies on family members for making everyday decisions and managing daily routines.

A psychological assessment revealed significant deficits in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior across conceptual, social, and practical domains. These difficulties have been present since childhood and affect his academic, social, and daily functioning.

Questions:

- a) Provide a working diagnosis for this case. Justify your answer using information from the case. **(3 marks)**
- b) Identify any four features of the disorder evident in the case. **(4 marks)**
- c) Differentiate the diagnosis from other neurodevelopmental disorders. **(3 marks)**

8. Case-study

Meera is a 32-year-old married woman working as an accountant in a private company. She was referred for counselling by her physician after repeatedly seeking medical consultations for headaches, muscle tension, fatigue, and difficulty sleeping. Despite several medical examinations, no significant physical illness was found.

During the interview, Meera reported that for the past 10 months she has been constantly worried about a variety of issues, including her job performance, her parents' health, her financial stability, and the possibility of something bad happening to her husband while he travels for work. She stated that even when one concern is resolved, she quickly begins worrying about another issue.

Meera finds it difficult to control her worrying and spends several hours each day thinking about possible future problems. She frequently seeks reassurance from family members but remains unconvinced after receiving it. She reports feeling restless, easily fatigued, irritable, and unable to concentrate during meetings. Her colleagues have noticed that she repeatedly checks her work for mistakes and often stays late at the office to ensure that nothing has been overlooked.

Although she recognizes that some of her worries may be excessive, she believes that worrying helps her stay prepared and prevent negative outcomes. She denies experiencing panic attacks, obsessions, compulsions, hallucinations, or symptoms of major depression. The symptoms have caused significant distress and have affected her occupational efficiency and family life.

Questions:

- a) Provide a working diagnosis with relevant points to support the diagnosis. **(3 marks)**
- b) Draw up the psychological aetiology for this disorder. **(4 marks)**
- c) Differentiate the diagnosis from other anxiety spectrum disorders. **(3 marks)**

9. Cite the clinical features of dissociative disorders.

PART-C

Answer any TWO questions out of THREE. Each answer carries FIFTEEN marks

[15X2=30]

10. Compare and contrast Dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia due to Cerebrovascular Disease, and Frontotemporal Dementia with respect to their clinical features, course, and underlying pathology.

11. Case-study:

Arun, a 28-year-old software engineer, was brought to the emergency department by his friends after witnessing a major road traffic accident in which his close friend sustained severe injuries. The incident occurred two days ago. According to his friends, Arun appeared shocked immediately after the accident and remained unusually quiet throughout the day.

Since the incident, Arun has been experiencing recurrent distressing images of the accident and reports feeling as if he is reliving parts of the event. He has difficulty sleeping and is easily startled by sudden noises such as vehicle horns and screeching brakes. He has become increasingly irritable and finds it difficult to concentrate on work-related tasks.

His family reports that Arun has been avoiding discussions about the accident and refuses to travel on the road where the incident occurred. At times, he appears emotionally numb and detached from others. During the interview, Arun described feeling overwhelmed, anxious, and fearful that something terrible might happen again. He denies any prior psychiatric history and reports that he was functioning well before the accident.

A mental status examination reveals an anxious mood, heightened physiological arousal, intrusive recollections of the event, and avoidance of trauma-related reminders. The symptoms began immediately after the traumatic event and have been present for only a few days.

Questions:

- a) What is the most likely diagnosis? Justify your answer with reference to the diagnostic features evident in the case. **(4 marks)**
- b) Explain the psychological and physiological responses to trauma that may account for Arun's symptoms. **(3 marks)**
- c) Identify and explain any six symptoms of Acute Stress Reaction/Acute Stress Disorder present in the case. **(5 marks)**
- d) Discuss the management plan. **(3 marks)**

12. Delineate the clinical picture of unipolar depression along with its etiology.
