

Sample Written Exam – Psychiatry

Question 1

A 27-year-old woman presents with hypersomnia (sleeps approximately 15 hours per day) and hyperphagia (has gained 6 kg). She is feeling discouraged and disinterested and reports a lack of energy. She has recently been thinking about death. Although she felt able to “conquer the world” 2 months ago, she now feels lost and confused. Previously, she had 2 jobs and was training for a marathon. She was convinced she would make it to the Olympics, given that she required only 4 hours of sleep to recuperate. What agent would MOST likely stabilize her current condition?

- a. ***Quetiapine (CORRECT ANSWER)**
- b. Divalproex
- c. Bupropion
- d. Pramipexole

Question 2

In which of the following sites is dopamine found in HIGHEST concentration?

- a. Reticular formation
- b. Internal capsule
- c. ***Caudate nucleus (CORRECT ANSWER)**
- d. Amygdala

Question 3

A 55-year-old man presents with suicidal ideation. He tells you that he "was just laid off from his job" after only 3 months, and that his 3 children "want nothing to do with him" because he "wasn't really involved in their childhoods". He feels hopeless and useless. Which of Erikson's stages describes this man's difficulties?

- a. Ego integrity versus despair
- b. ***Generativity versus stagnation (CORRECT ANSWER)**
- c. Identity versus role confusion
- d. Intimacy versus isolation



Question 4

A 42-year-old man with no previous psychiatric history is brought to the emergency department by the police after a car chase. The police report that the patient believed he was being chased by special agents whose voices he heard on his Citizens' Band radio. The patient admits to being a heavy drinker of alcohol. On examination, he is found to be somewhat agitated and suspicious, but shows no memory deficit and is well oriented to time, place, and person. There is no neurologic deficit seen on physical examination. What is the MOST probable diagnosis?

- a. Paranoid schizophrenia
- b. Paranoia (delusional disorder)
- c. ***Alcoholic hallucinosis (CORRECT ANSWER)**
- d. Delirium tremens

Question 5

Which of the following states is MOST closely related to catatonic excitement?

- a. Catalepsy
- b. Stereotypies
- c. Automatisms
- d. ***Mania (CORRECT ANSWER)**