



THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

4702 – HONOURS PSYCHOLOGY (PSYCHOL 4000B)

CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

NOVEMBER 2007 EXAMINATION

Time: 3 hours

(In addition, candidates are allowed ten minutes before the examination begins to read the paper.)

PLEASE TURN OVER

THREE (3) OUT OF FOUR (4) QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

ALL QUESTIONS ARE OF EQUAL VALUE

1. A 62 year old male with high blood pressure and raised cholesterol was recently told by his General Practitioner that, if he did not improve his health, he would be at risk for developing cerebrovascular disease.

From a neuropsychological perspective, what are the main cerebrovascular diseases that this man is most at risk of developing?

What are the main diagnostic/imaging techniques that would be most appropriate to use if this man developed cerebrovascular disease?

2. A young man was involved in a car accident and, as a consequence, sustained a non-penetrating traumatic brain injury. He was later referred to a clinical neuropsychologist for an assessment because he continued to experience cognitive problems 6 months after his injury.

Explain what a traumatic brain injury is. What would be some of the main purposes/reasons for undertaking a neuropsychological assessment in this person's case?

3. Write an essay on Alzheimer's Disease in which you discuss some of the main aspects of memory that are affected by this disease.
4. Write an essay on malingering in neuropsychological settings in which you also consider the following case. What, if any, evidence is there to suggest that this person may be malingering? And, what other information would assist the neuropsychologist in determining whether she may be malingering.

A 30-year-old woman, JD, was referred for neuropsychological testing by her lawyer after being involved in a motor vehicle accident 12 months earlier. JD was in a coma for two days after her injury and was hospitalized for 12 days, after which she was in a rehabilitation program for 2 months. She then returned to work as a postal clerk but was fired some months later for making excessive mistakes, displaying poor work habits, and engaging in inappropriate behaviour.

When JD was seen by a neuropsychologist, she denied having any cognitive or emotional problems, although her husband reported otherwise. During her cognitive assessment, JD showed considerable problems completing the tasks required of her. Her attention would wander and she frequently needed prompting to complete a task. On the basis of her test performance (e.g., memory, attention, planning ability), it appeared that JD was moderately to severely impaired for her age.

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER