

Modified Essay **QUESTIONS**

Modified Essay 1

(32 marks)

Each question within this modified essay question will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking one 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 consultant at a Community Mental Health Service and you see Madelaine, a 36-year-old single woman who was diagnosed with Schizophrenia at the age of 28 years. She has a history of good medication adherence but she continues to experience frequent distressing auditory hallucinations.

She is currently taking risperidone 6mg per day orally, but she has significant extrapyramidal side effects. Madelaine was previously prescribed olanzapine with good effect but it caused significant weight gain and she ceased it.

During your first meeting with Madelaine, she requests a change of medication.

Question 1.1

Outline (list and justify) the key information you require in order to address Madelaine's request.

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

(12 marks)

Please write your response on page 2 of the answer book

Question 1.2

Outline (list and justify) the key examination and investigation findings you would require to reassess Madelaine at this point.

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

(6 marks)

Please write your response on page 10 of the answer book

Modified Essay

QUESTIONS

Modified Essay 1 (cont.)

Madelaine's primary complaints are stiffness and tremor both of which she finds embarrassing, and which interfere with basic tasks.

Question 1.3

Outline (list and justify) the treatment options you would discuss with Madelaine.

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

(3 marks)

Please write your response on page 15 of the answer book

Madelaine decides to start clozapine. Baseline blood tests (including tests of cardiac function) are all normal. Her body mass index is 22kg/m². You start her on the lowest recommended regimen.

After reaching a dose of 200mg a day in 3 weeks, she reports one incident of a hot and cold sensation the previous night. Physical examination is normal. Her white cell count (WCC) is $4.2 \times 10^9/L$, creatine phosphokinase (CPK) is 200U/L and her troponin T is normal. An ECG showed that her QTc has increased from 428ms at baseline to 492ms.

Question 1.4

Outline (list and justify) the approaches to management that you would consider.

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

(6 marks)

Please write your response on page 19 of the answer book

After reviewing the options available with Madelaine, she decides to continue the clozapine at its current dose. However, the following afternoon, Madelaine is admitted to hospital with nausea, lethargy, fever and tachycardia. Her condition deteriorates and she is transferred to the intensive care unit.

The next morning, Madelaine's mother contacts you by telephone and accuses you of being negligent in Madelaine's care. She is nominated as Madelaine's next-of-kin.

Question 1.5

Describe (list and explain) your response to the mother's accusation of negligence.

Please note: a list without any explanation will not receive any marks.

(5 marks)

Please write your response on page 24 of the answer book