4.1 The Four Definitions of Abnormality: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer all questions. Full sentences are required for questions worth 4 marks or more. Allow about 10 minutes for the whole pack.

1 Outline the definition of abnormality called deviation from social norms, as used in clinical contexts.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain how the failure to function adequately definition can be useful in clinical practice when deciding whether someone needs support. Give two linked points of application.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.1 The Four Definitions of Abnormality: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

states that deviation from social norms defines abnormality as behaviour that violates the accepted rules or expectations of a society or culture	**B1**
may mention that norms vary by culture, context and time oe	**B1**

Answer: Deviation from social norms defines abnormality as behaviour that goes against the accepted rules, values or expectations of a particular society or culture; what counts as abnormal can depend on cultural or contextual norms.

Question 2

states that it focuses on practical consequences such as ability to hold down a job or self-care	**M1**
explains application 1: clinicians can use evidence of maladaptiveness or impairment to prioritise treatment and allocate resources oe	**A1**
states that it takes account of personal distress	**M1**
explains application 2: reported distress and risk to self or others help determine urgency of intervention and ethical duty of care oe	**A1**
additional development: it allows a person-centred assessment rather than reliance on statistical cut-offs oe	**A1**
additional development: but it requires clinician judgement so checks for observer bias and cultural context are needed oe	**A1**

Answer: Failure to function adequately is useful because it focuses on real-life consequences such as inability to work or manage self-care; clinicians can use evidence of maladaptiveness to prioritise treatment and allocate support. It also considers personal distress and risk, so reported suffering or danger helps decide urgency of intervention. This approach supports person-centred assessment rather than automatic labelling, though it relies on clinician judgement which must consider cultural context.

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