Diagnostic systems and disorder classification

GRE Subject Test · GRE Psychology

Scope and prerequisites

GRE Psychology topic 8 (CL.1). Use the overview measurement lesson VI when interpreting research evidence. The practice tasks below are original, not official ETS questions.

Concepts and method

diagnostic criteria : The listed symptom, duration, impairment and exclusion requirements for a classification. **diathesis-stress model** - : An account of how vulnerability and environmental stress jointly affect risk.

The recorded framework is DSM-5-TR. Clinical classification describes patterns; a category does not establish the cause of a presentation. Historical ETS items must be interpreted against their recorded source version.

Symptoms, duration, clinically significant distress or impairment, context and exclusions must be considered together. A short duration does not by itself establish acute stress disorder or any other diagnosis.

The diathesis-stress model examines how vulnerability and environmental stress jointly affect risk. Neither a family history nor a later event establishes an inevitable outcome or a universal necessity/sufficiency rule.

Common educational distinctions include added experiences versus reduced functions in symptom descriptions, and episodic presentations versus enduring patterns. For the full diagnostic criteria, use the current edition of the DSM.

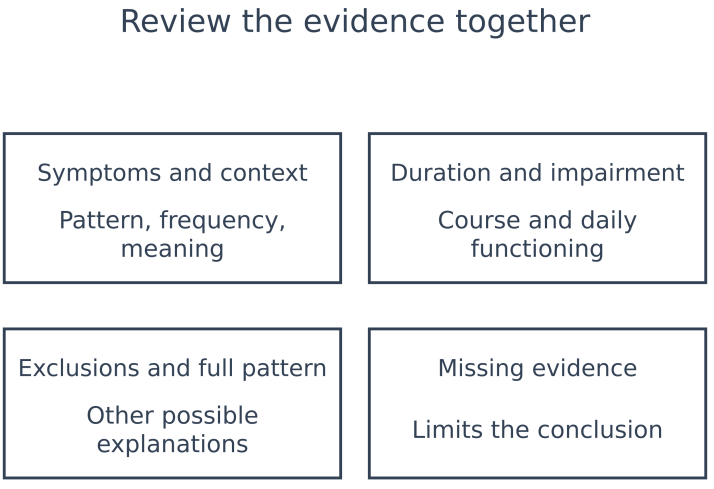
The recorded teaching names DSM-5-TR; the historical ETS practice form is not authority for every current diagnostic criterion. A diagnosis requires its complete pattern and exclusions under the applicable manual. Duration is one piece of evidence, never a sufficient decision rule. Predisposition and stress are risk concepts: neither a family history nor an adverse event makes an outcome inevitable. Avoid classifying real people in classroom practice.

Worked reasoning

A fictional vignette supplies a recent adverse event and two symptoms but omits impairment, exclusions and a full assessment. What conclusion is justified?

The vignette identifies relevant evidence and missing information. It cannot establish a diagnosis. A duration threshold alone cannot turn a short account into an alternative disorder. The correct educational response is to name the missing criterion domains

and source/version, not supply personal advice.



Educational evidence domains: an incomplete vignette does not establish a diagnosis.

Independent transfer

Two fictional people share a family risk factor; only one has a later stressor and difficulty. Explain the diathesis-stress interpretation and its limit.

Attempt independently, then use the matching skill sheet solution.

Review and source limits

Avoid this error: Do not infer a diagnosis from duration or a few symptoms, or offer personal treatment advice.