

DSM-5-TR Mastery: Diagnostic Architecture and Differential Methods

Short-answer practice · 10 questions · answer key on the last page

How to use it — answer each question in two or three sentences from memory, then mark yourself against the key. This study guide provides a comprehensive overview of the diagnostic frameworks, differential methodologies, and specific disorder criteria found in the DSM-5-TR. It is designed to facilitate mastery of clinical discrimination and the structural logic of the manual.

1. What are the five recurring structural elements found in almost every DSM-5-TR criteria set?

2. How does the differential method distinguish between malingering and factitious disorder?

3. What is the primary discriminator between anorexia nervosa (binge-eating/purging type) and bulimia nervosa?

4. What three clinical markers distinguish a manic episode from a hypomanic episode?

5. In the context of depressive disorders, how do major depressive disorder (MDD) and persistent depressive disorder (PDD) differ in their temporal presentation?

6. What are the specific onset and setting requirements for a diagnosis of ADHD?

7. What is the defining "dyad" required for a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

8. How does the "schizoaffective line" separate schizoaffective disorder from mood disorders with psychotic features?

9. What qualifies as a "Criterion A" exposure in trauma- and stressor-related disorders?

10. What is the functional difference between a specifier and a subtype in the DSM-5-TR?

Answer key

1. **Structural Elements:**
2. **Malingering vs. Factitious:**
3. **Anorexia vs. Bulimia:**
4. **Manic vs. Hypomanic:**
5. **MDD vs. PDD:**
6. **ADHD Requirements:**
7. **ASD Dyad:**
8. **Schizoaffective Line:**
9. **Criterion A:**
10. **Specifier vs. Subtype:**

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Educational practice material — not clinical or legal advice.
Questions and model answers from the program study guide.