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Tips for Candidate Preparation for Oral Examination

1. In choosing which samples to submit for your examination it is important that you choose samples which best illustrate your competence and work.
2. Review your work samples for typographical errors and omissions which may take away from their presentation.
3. Ensure that your samples contain a clear statement of the presenting problem(s).
4. Ensure that the conclusions arrived at in your samples are adequately supported by the documented information.
5. If diagnosing be sure to discuss differential diagnosis in your reports and be prepared to speak to this and the research regarding the specific psychiatric / psychological condition (s) assigned.
6. Be prepared to discuss the research relevant to the cases presented. It is important that you are able to discuss topics such as the research itself, the researchers, the implications for practice etc.
7. Be prepared to discuss the psychometric instruments used, why were they chosen, the psychometric properties, what other instruments were considered etc.
8. Familiarize yourself with risk assessment.
9. Familiarize yourself with relevant legislation.
10. Ensure that all samples are co-signed by your supervisor.
11. Ensure that the report format utilized is clear and consistent with the acceptable standards of the profession.
12. Ensure that the correct number of copies of your samples and professional statement have been submitted along with your examination fee.
13. In the examination provide full responses to the questions posed – do not assume that the examiners will fill in the gaps for you – you will be told if you have provided enough information. Examiners have been directed to provide only minimal prompts.
14. You may ask for a break at anytime during the examination – please remember that multiple breaks will lengthen the overall examination time.
15. If you require time to gather your thoughts indicate so to the panel – you may ask for scrap paper to jot down your thoughts / ideas before responding.
16. It is not so important that you have the perfect answer, but rather that you are able to demonstrate that you can problem solve around it.
17. If a question is unclear you may ask for clarification.