

OCR Paper 3 Exam Analysis



MENTAL HEALTH

2026

Historical view of mental illness and whether it represents an individual or situational explanation of behaviour (6)

Name a psychotic disorder and describe three characteristics – scenario (4)

One way diagnosis of psychotic disorder could lack validity – scenario (3)

One way diagnosis of psychotic disorder could lack reliability – scenario (3)

Brain abnormality as an explanation for mental illness (3)

Two ways **Gottesman** study could be improved (6)

To what extent is **Rosenhan** more useful than **Szasz** (10)

2025

Biochemical explanation (5)

One way mental disorders can be categorised (4)

One problem with categorising mental disorders – give an example (4)

One conclusion from data in table – **Rosenhan** (3)

One suggestion for how the findings from **Rosenhan** can be used (3)

Assess the reliability of **Rosenhan's** findings (6)

Discuss the validity of definitions of abnormality (10)

2024

Two historical views (6)

Gottesman's aim (3)

One strength of Gottesman's study (3)

One weakness of Gottesman's study (3)

One non-biological treatment of a disorder – scenario (4)

How to investigate the effectiveness of non-biological treatment (6)

To what extent can explanations of mental health be considered socially sensitive (10)

2023

One specific disorder and a biological treatment (4)

Refer to humanistic or psychodynamic or cognitive neuroscience explanations – scenario (5)

Genetic explanation for mental health (3)

Evaluate usefulness of genetic explanation of mental health (6)

To what extent can historical views of mental illness be considered scientific (7)

Assess the contribution of Szasz (2011) to the topic of alternatives to the medical model (10)

2022

One similarity between two historical views (3)

One difference between two historical views (3)

Characteristics of an anxiety disorder (3)

Discuss the usefulness of knowing the characteristics of disorders (5)

How a cognitive psychologist would explain the behaviour in the scenario (5)

With reference to Gottesman's study outline two conclusions from the findings (4)

Outline two suggestions based on these findings (4)

To what extent can these findings be considered reliable (8)

2021

Historical views of mental health applied to scenario (4)

Medical model applied to the scenario (4)

Alternatives to the medical model applied to the scenario (4)

How **Rosenhan** explained the behaviour of the staff (3)

Two ways **Rosenhan** could be improved (6)

Compare characteristics of an affective disorder with psychotic disorder (8)

Ethical considerations of a non-biological treatment for one mental disorder (6)

2020

One way of defining abnormality (2)

One weakness of this way of defining abnormality (3)

One way **Rosenhan's** finding illustrates reliability (3)

One way **Rosenhan's** finding illustrates ethnocentrism (3)

What does **Szasz** mean by mental illness is a myth (3)

What extent do you agree with **Szasz** (5)

One disorder and a non-biological treatment for it (2)

How does this treatment contribute to the success of the economy and society (4)

Discuss mental illness in relation to individual/ situational debate (10)

2019

Categorising mental disorders (3)

Characteristics of an affective disorder (5)

How **Gottesman et al. (2010)** contributes to the medical model (5)

Usefulness of the key research by **Szasz (2011)** (6)

Compare the behaviourist explanation with humanistic or psychodynamic or cognitive neuroscience explanation (8)

Ethical considerations concerning the biological treatment of one specific disorder (8)

2018

Non-biological treatment of one specific disorder (5)

One strength and one weakness of the non-biological treatment (6)

Key research by Szasz (2011) quote (3)

Evaluate Szasz's view (5)

Key research by Rosenhan (1973) contributes to an understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity (6)

Explanations of mental illness determinist (10)

2017

How mental hospitals failed to detect sanity in Rosenhan (2)

Ethical considerations of Rosenhan (6)

Characteristics of a psychotic disorder (6)

Biological treatment of one specific disorder (5)

One strength and one weakness of the biological treatment (6)

To what extent are alternatives to the medical model of explaining mental illness scientific (10)

Specimen Practice Papers

Set 1

One historical view of mental illness (3)

Characteristics of a psychotic disorder (5)

One difficulty that Lena could experience in trying to confirm that her patient is experiencing a psychotic disorder (6)

What do Gottesman et al. (2010) tell us about mental disorders (5)

Usefulness of Gottesman et al. (2010) (6)

To what extent are explanations of mental illness reductionist (10)

Set 2

One way of defining abnormality (2)

The issue of defining abnormality in relation to ethnocentrism (5)

How the behaviourist approach could be used to explain mental illness (5)

How non-biological treatment could be used to treat one specific disorder (5)

What does Szasz (2011) mean by “the medicalisation of disturbing or disturbed behaviours” (3)

Assuming Szasz is correct to say there has been a “medicalisation of disturbing or disturbed behaviours” to what extent would this be a problem (5)

Compare the biochemical explanation of mental illness with brain abnormality as an explanation of mental illness (10)





STUDY PSYCHOLOGY

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