

## Sample Answer

The reliability of diagnosis is based on the idea that a patient will receive the same diagnosis from either a series of different assessment measures (test re-test) or by two or more independent psychiatrists (inter rater). Reliability is defined when agreement or concordance is seen in the results. The two main classification systems used are the DSM and ICD. The DSM (American version) helps clinicians classify mental disorders into different types and identifies the symptoms associated with them. Whereas the ICD (international version), also considers the physical aetiology associated with mental disorders. **Goldstein (1988)** found high levels of inter-rater reliability (+0.8) when patients were diagnosed using the DSM-3 for schizophrenia. However, **Rosenhan (1973)** found that DSM-3 was not a valid diagnostic tool as all the pseudopatients in his study were diagnosed incorrectly with a diagnosis of schizophrenia. **Cheniaux et al (2009)** investigated the reliability of schizophrenia diagnoses in 100 patients and found poor reliability, as psychiatrists were interchanging between DSM and ICD. The process of diagnosis would be more credible if one classification were used universally, yet this is not the case at present. This lack of a single, universal diagnostic classification system could be due to the complexity of human biology, evolving medical knowledge, or differing cultural and socio-economic factors across the world. Despite this both classification systems continue to be revised to maintain their reliability and validity, and both have been shown to agree. **Jansson et al (2002)** compared ICD-10 with DSM-4 and found a high rate of agreement between the two suggesting ICD-10 is a valid diagnostic system. There are, however, issues with symptom overlap or comorbidity. **Buckley et al (2009)** found that half of all patients diagnosed with schizophrenia also had a diagnosis of depression. This highlights issues with the validity of the classification systems which could result in mistreatment of patients or wider issues such as labelling.

