

EXAM TIPS

- I do not expect you to memorize exact prevalence rates or exact ages of onset of disorders, though it may be helpful to know around when in development certain disorders onset (e.g., separation anxiety is earlier than GAD) as this may help with case studies
 - Do understand why some disorders may be diagnosed more frequently in certain groups (e.g., racial/gender groups)
- Understand key terms that have come up repeatedly (e.g., Multifinality, equifinality, homotypic, heterotypic, epigenetics/heritability estimates, polygenic, transdiagnostic, etc.)
- Understand why it's important to study typical development to understand psychopathology
- Do not spend too much time studying treatments – focus mainly on CBT and exposure (there will only be a couple questions related to treatment)
- Do not need to memorize specific facts or findings from papers you read if we did not discuss them directly during class
- Think about pros/cons of different approaches we use to study child psychopathology, such as self-report questionnaires, fMRI, genetics, behavioral tasks, etc.
- Understand Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory and be able to apply it (as we've practiced during class)

SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS

Most of these come directly from the in-class activities

Also review your discussion board posts!

These are not inclusive of all types of questions you might see on the exam but gives you an idea of what I'm looking for

Example Questions

- **Which of the following is NOT a reason why early life stress might increase risk for mental health disorders?**
 - Survival is prioritized, and behaviors that are adaptive in the short-term (but may not be adaptive in the long-term) are promoted
 - Stress impacts neurobiological and physical functioning directly
 - Development accelerates or slows
 - Children have no emotion regulation skills yet
- **Which of the following is NOT a common criticism of the DSM & categorical diagnoses?**
 - Many symptoms are transdiagnostic (seen across multiple disorders)
 - The DSM speaks too much to the "causes" of disorders
 - Symptom thresholds are binary (you either have it or you don't)
 - High heterogeneity (variability) exists within the same disorder

Example Questions

- **True or False: More objective measures are always preferred when studying child psychopathology.**
- **Which of the following is NOT a likely reason why ADHD and ASD prevalence rates have increased over the past several years?**
 - Increased public awareness
 - Decreased stigma around assessment and treatment
 - Improved tools for assessment
 - New vaccinations for children
- **You might be particularly concerned when assessing a young child with conduct disorder if they show:**
 - Callous-unemotional traits
 - Shyness
 - High IQ
 - Impatience

Case Studies

- **Your new client, Susie, is a 12 year old who has been refusing to go to school, quit all of her clubs and after school activities, and has been refusing to eat in public. Which of the following diagnoses seems MOST UNLIKELY?**
 - Major depressive disorder
 - Social anxiety disorder
 - Oppositional defiant disorder
 - Conduct disorder
- **Jace is a 9 year old boy who comes to see you following a house fire two months ago. Since the fire, he has been experiencing nightmares, hypervigilance, avoidance of houses that look like his, sad mood and increased irritability, and difficulty concentrating. Which of the following diagnoses seems MOST LIKELY?**
 - Major depressive disorder
 - Post-traumatic stress disorder
 - Generalized anxiety disorder
 - Borderline personality disorder

Case Studies

- Kyle is a 7 year old nonverbal boy with autism spectrum disorder. You are completing an updated psychological assessment; which strategies might you want to consider when working with Kyle?
 - a) Interviewing his teachers and school staff
 - b) Interviewing his parents
 - c) Observing Kyle's behaviors
 - d) Giving Kyle a 3-hour verbal interview
 - e) A, b, and c
 - f) All of the above

Short answer/essay

- Name 2 aspects within a child's microsystem and 2 within the mesosystem or exosystem that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Discuss 3 pros and/or cons of restricting social media use in teenagers, using what you know about adolescent development and the effects of social media on psychopathology.
- A researcher assesses substance use and mood at one time point in 50 adolescents and finds a positive correlation between cannabis use and depressive symptoms. The researcher concludes that cannabis use is causing the teen mental health crisis. What is a potential problem with this interpretation?