Psych CE

Introduction to Forensic Psychology

1. What is the primary purpose of a forensic evaluation?

A. To answer a legally defined referral question
B. To provide ongoing psychotherapy
C. To advocate for the defendant
D. To establish guilt or innocence

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2. In child custody evaluations, the primary legal standard is typically:

A. Parental preference
B. Financial stability only
C. Past criminal history
D. Best interests of the child

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3. Which best defines forensic psychology?

A. Application of psychological science to legal questions
B. Provision of therapy in prisons only
C. Criminal profiling as primary practice
D. Law enforcement investigation training

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4. Structured professional judgment tools are primarily used for:

A. IQ assessment
B. Personality diagnosis only
C. Violence risk assessment
D. Career counseling

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5. Which is essential in forensic report writing?

A. Clear linkage between findings and legal criteria
B. Use of clinical jargon without explanation
C. Omission of conflicting data
D. Advocacy language supporting retaining party

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6. Assessment of intellectual disability in forensic contexts requires evaluation of:

A. IQ score only

B. Criminal history
C. Educational attainment
D. Intellectual and adaptive functioning

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7. Which is a key responsibility under the APA Ethics Code?

A. Practicing within one's boundaries of competence
B. Guaranteeing client outcomes
C. Providing testimony for any requesting attorney
D. Avoiding documentation to reduce liability

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8. Which is a major ethical risk in forensic psychology?

A. Using structured assessment tools
B. Providing detailed documentation
C. Seeking consultation
D. Advocacy that compromises objectivity

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9. Which is appropriate during cross-examination?

A. Arguing with opposing counsel
B. Answering clearly and acknowledging limitations
C. Refusing to answer difficult questions
D. Changing conclusions to appear confident

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10. When test data are insufficient, a forensic psychologist should:

A. Offer a definitive opinion anyway
B. Rely on intuition
C. State that limitations preclude definitive conclusions
D. Adopt the retaining attorney's theory

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11. Continuing education in forensic psychology is necessary because:

A. It eliminates malpractice risk entirely
B. It guarantees board certification
C. It replaces supervision
D. Legal standards and research evolve over time

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12. Which standard applies in most civil cases?

A. Preponderance of the evidence
B. Beyond a reasonable doubt
C. Clear and convincing evidence

D. Probable cause

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13. A dual role conflict most often occurs when a psychologist:

A. Administers multiple assessments
B. Serves as both therapist and forensic evaluator for the same person
C. Provides supervision
D. Reviews collateral documents

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14. In forensic contexts, who is typically the primary client?

A. The examinee
B. The court or retaining party
C. The examinee's family
D. The treatment team

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15. The highest standard of proof in criminal cases is:

A. Clear and convincing evidence
B. Preponderance of the evidence
C. Beyond a reasonable doubt
D. Reasonable suspicion

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16. A psychologist is retained by defense counsel to conduct a competency to stand trial evaluation. During the interview, the defendant begins discussing confidential details of alleged offenses and requests therapeutic advice. What is the most appropriate response?

A. Provide therapeutic guidance to build rapport
B. Clarify the forensic role and explain that treatment advice cannot be provided
C. Refuse to continue the evaluation
D. Advise the defendant on how to present well in court

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17. During testimony, opposing counsel presents a research article suggesting that the risk assessment tool you used has limitations in predictive validity. What is the most appropriate response?

A. Dismiss the article as irrelevant
B. Defend the tool as flawless
C. Refuse to answer
D. Acknowledge known limitations while explaining why the tool remains appropriate

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18. A psychologist is asked to evaluate a juvenile's competence to stand trial. The youth demonstrates limited understanding of legal terminology but average intellectual functioning.

What is the most important consideration?

A. Developmental maturity and functional legal abilities
B. Academic achievement level
C. Parental opinion of competence
D. Severity of the alleged offense

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19. A psychologist conducting a violence risk assessment becomes aware that their hiring attorney expects a particular outcome. The psychologist notices subtle pressure to align conclusions accordingly. What is the most appropriate course of action?

A. Modify conclusions to maintain referral relationships
B. Decline to complete the evaluation
C. Maintain independence and document objective reasoning
D. Request that the attorney draft the conclusion

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20. During a forensic evaluation, test results are inconsistent with behavioral observations and collateral records. What is the most appropriate action?

A. Base conclusions solely on test scores
B. Integrate multiple data sources and discuss inconsistencies in the report
C. Exclude collateral data
D. Provide no opinion

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