



Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine

General Forensic Medicine

Appropriate adult (FTI for detainee with LD)

This is a 10-minute station

Candidate Instructions

This is a 10-minute station.

It is 17:30 hours.

You are the Forensic Practitioner on duty in the custody suite to see Josh Brown, who has already been interviewed for alleged indecent exposure in the local park. The police are going to interview him again.

He tells you that the interview has upset him and he now has a headache and would like some paracetamol before his next interview.

Tasks:

- Please assess Josh Browns' headache with a view to prescribing medication;
- Assess his current fitness for interview.

At 8 minutes the examiner will ask:

- Please tell me the results of your assessment and any advice that you will give to the custody sergeant.

The candidate has been given the following instructions:

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Additional notes for examiner:

Construct: This station assesses the ability of candidates to recognise that a detained person has a learning disability, in the course of establishing whether he may be prescribed paracetamol. Candidates should recognise that an Appropriate Adult is required for the interview and tell the detainee that you will discuss this with the custody sergeant.

If the candidate asks to examine the detainee, say 'All examination findings are normal'.

A=Outstanding, B=Good, C=Adequate, D= Marginal, E = Inadequate

1. Initial approach to detained person	A	B	C	D	E
2. Information-gathering: clinical content	A	B	C	D	E
3. Information gathering: learning difficulty	A	B	C	D	E
4. Information-gathering: communication skills	A	B	C	D	E
5. Management in custody (to the custody sergeant)	A	B	C	D	E
6. Rapport and professionalism	A	B	C	D	E
7. SP to Mark	A	B	C	D	E

	1	2	3	4	5	6
GLOBAL RATING	CLEAR FAIL	BORDERLINE FAIL	BORDERLINE PASS	CLEAR PASS	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT

Examiner feedback to candidate

Information for examiner under domain headings (1 of 2)

1. Initial approach to detained person

- Candidates should make an appropriate introduction, including consent - this may need to be re-affirmed when /if the candidate deduces that there is a learning difficulty issue and then to bear in mind the need for simplified language.
- Candidates should clarify the reason they have been asked to see Josh and explain what the consultation involves.
- Candidates should start with an open question regarding how Josh is feeling and whether he has any injuries.

2. Information-gathering: clinical content

- Candidates should establish information about the headache e.g. when it started, location and character and any other related symptoms e.g. visual disturbance, nausea, vomiting, dizziness.
- Candidates should ask about any past history of headaches and what pain relief Josh uses.
- Candidates should establish the patient's mood, and whether he has any past history of self-harm and any current suicidal or self-harm intent/plans.
- Candidates should elicit key information about past medical and mental health history including drug and alcohol use.
- Candidates should also gather some personal and social information, for example about his living arrangements and employment. (they may do some of this when questioning about the LD).

3. Information gathering: learning difficulty

- Candidates should recognize that Josh has some degree of learning difficulty and should explore his education history.
- They should make some assessment of degree of Josh's learning difficulty e.g. money, current reading / writing ability etc.
- Candidates may do this by exploring Josh's understanding of his arrest and previous interview and his understanding of the interview to come.
- Candidates should explain that they are concerned that Josh hasn't understood all the implications of the interviews and tell him that they will discuss this with the custody sergeant. The candidate should also mention that the sergeant may decide that an Appropriate Adult is needed for Josh and briefly explain the role of the AA.

4. Information-gathering: communication skills

- Candidates should use an appropriate mix of open and closed questions and take particular care to avoid asking leading questions (assuming the answer) and multiple questions. Language should be clear and jargon either avoided or explained.
- They should demonstrate active listening, picking up cues, responding appropriately to the patient's replies and not repeating questions.

Information for examiner under domain headings (2 of 2)

- Pacing of speech should be appropriate for someone who may have difficulty following what is being asked.

5. Management while in custody [to the custody sergeant]

- Candidates should agree to give appropriate medication for the Josh's headache and state dosage - in the absence of allergy, x2 Paracetamol 500mg tablets.
- They should be clear that they have reached the conclusion that he is fit for interview but the advice is that an Appropriate Adult should be present.
- They should express concerns about the validity of the previous interview **and** be able to resist the challenges by the custody sergeant to proceed with the police interview. (remembering that the sergeant makes the final decision about an AA being needed.)

6. Rapport and Professionalism

- Candidates should show interest in and respect for Josh. Tone and level of voice and non-verbal communication should be appropriate.
- Candidates should position themselves at an appropriate distance from the detainee and maintain eye contact.

7. SP Mark

- I thought the candidate was easy to talk to, understanding, supportive and non-judgmental. I felt in safe hands.

Background information for detainee

- Your name is Josh Brown and you are 24 years old but have a mental age of approximately ten. You live at home with your mum and two sisters. You work for cash in the local hand carwash centre. Please wear scruffy car wash clothes.
- You have no qualifications and did not pass any exams as you have a learning disability. You are better at practical things and you are a hard worker at the car wash.
- You have friends and you like playing on your Xbox. You do not drink much or take drugs and have no other medical or mental health problems.
- You have never had any serious illness and you have never been referred to a psychiatrist.

Your learning disability

- You did not like school as you struggled with academic work. You don't have a formal diagnosis but found learning very difficult. You were a quiet child who didn't cause any trouble at school.
- You had little schooling from the age of 12 and none from the age of 15. You can say that you can read and write but if the Forensic Practitioner explores this in more detail you admit you can print your name and some simple words and can only read to the same standard.
- You don't understand money and you usually use notes so you don't need to worry about giving correct amount in change. Your mum does the shopping.
- You use simple language and struggle with long words e.g. exposure and will struggle if the Forensic Practitioner uses complicated language. **If that happens you have learnt over the years to smile and agree.**
- You have a simple trusting demeanour to everyone and are anxious to please.

The arrest

- It is now 17.30 in the afternoon. You were arrested in the park because some little boys said you exposed yourself and were handling your penis. In reality, you had just been having a pee behind a bush as you were taken short on your way home from work.
- The police had told you this was 'indecent exposure' and so although you don't really understand; they must be right because they are the police. You trust them as your parents had always said you can trust a policeman if you were in trouble or needed help.
- **In the interview, you admitted to indecent exposure but you don't really know what it means.**
- You have never been in custody before and are a bit overwhelmed by what has been happening today, not really understanding all the processes up until now. You do not understand what your rights are.
- The police are keeping you in custody because they want to interview you again as there had been other reports of this in the same park, but you can't remember having a pee there before.

Simulated Patient Script (2 of 2)

This has all been very difficult for you and you now have a bit of a headache. You would like two paracetamol (which your mum usually gives you if you get headaches) as they have been asking you so many questions and you want your tea.

- The headache (banging) is at the front of your head. You have no other symptoms.
- You ask the Forensic Practitioner occasional inappropriate questions e.g. where did you buy your watch / tie / ring.
- If the Forensic Practitioner wants to examine you in any way, you refuse, pulling back and reacting a bit as you are scared of physical contact with a stranger.

You will be asked to mark the following domain on the scale

A=Outstanding, B=Good, C=Adequate, D= Marginal, E = Inadequate

I thought the Forensic Practitioner was understanding, supportive and non-judgemental. I felt in safe hands.

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Equipment List

4 Chairs
Table
Stop clock