



# MSSBU OSCE PRACTICE CASE 3\_04\_05

## Station Vignette

You are a third-year student on your hospital placement.

Your supervising doctor has asked you to take a brief history from Elise Nguyen, a 74-year-old woman who was brought into the hospital after being found lost and wandering the streets.

After taking a history and performing a physical exam, the supervising doctor has asked you to perform a **mental state exam (MSE)** and a **mini-mental state exam (MMSE)**.

### **TASK**

You have a total of **6 minutes** to complete a mini-mental state exam and handover a mental state exam.

You do **NOT** need to take a history of presenting complaint.

At the end of the allotted time, you will have **2 minutes** to answer the examiner's questions.

## **PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS**

SP instructions – speak slowly and quietly, act confused and sometimes agitated. Slow body movements. You can suddenly call out or make groaning noises. For the MMSE, don't get everything correct.

<b>MSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mood: 'out of it'</li><li>• No current hallucinations, but she heard her sister calling to her before the ambulance took her to hospital</li><li>• No delusions</li></ul>
<b>Constitutional history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walks twice a week</li><li>• Sleeping normally - 8 hours of sleep a night.</li><li>• Diet is healthy and balanced</li><li>• Appetite is reduced – usually eats a piece of toast and a cup of tea for breakfast</li><li>• Unsure of weight loss/gain</li><li>• Now retired chef</li></ul>
<b>Medical history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Polycystic ovarian syndrome</li><li>• Menarche at age 52, no HRT</li></ul>
<b>Social history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-smoker</li><li>• No alcohol</li><li>• No recreational drugs</li><li>• Lives with her husband in an apartment at Palm Beach</li><li>• No children</li></ul>
<b>Medication history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li></ul>
<b>Family history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Father had Alzheimer's disease, died at 86 in hospital</li><li>• Sister had breast cancer</li></ul>

## **EXAMINER QUESTIONS**

1. How do you **differentiate** between dementia and delirium?
2. What is the **purpose** of the mini-mental state exam and what would a low score suggest?

## MARKING CRITERIA – Case 3\_04\_05

Item	Criteria	Mark																											
Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand hygiene <input type="checkbox"/> Introduces name and role <input type="checkbox"/> Explains role and gains consent 1/3, 2/3 = 1 mark, 3/3 = 2 marks	/2																											
MSE handover	Appropriate comments on each of the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Appearance (e.g clothing, body habitus) <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Speech (volume/tone/pace/rhythm) <input type="checkbox"/> Emotion (mood & affect) <input type="checkbox"/> Perception (hallucinations) <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughts (process/content/delusions) <input type="checkbox"/> Insight <input type="checkbox"/> Cognition (concentration/memory) <input type="checkbox"/> Asks relevant questions <input type="checkbox"/> Introduces patient with name and age before handover <input type="checkbox"/> Provides differential diagnosis in handover <input type="checkbox"/> Clear and concise handover (2 marks)	/12																											
Questions	Differentiates between the following: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Delirium</th> <th>Dementia</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Onset</td> <td>Acute</td> <td>Months-years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Course</td> <td>Fluctuating</td> <td>Progressive</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duration</td> <td>Days-weeks</td> <td>Months-years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consciousness</td> <td>Altered</td> <td>Normal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attention/ Concentration</td> <td>Lowered</td> <td>Normal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Memory</td> <td>Immediate recall impaired</td> <td>Immediate recall normal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Psychomotor</td> <td>Hyper/ Hypoactive</td> <td>Not present</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sleep-wake cycle</td> <td>Reversed</td> <td>Normal</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 1 mark for each category (max 5 marks)  Response mentions the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Measurement of cognitive impairment</b></li> <li>• Assess <b>mental status</b></li> <li>• Problems with <b>thinking, communication, understanding, short-term/long-term memory or orientation</b></li> <li>• Record cognitive changes <b>over time</b></li> <li>• Low score is suggestive of <b>cognitive impairment/decline</b></li> </ul> (max 3 marks)		Delirium	Dementia	Onset	Acute	Months-years	Course	Fluctuating	Progressive	Duration	Days-weeks	Months-years	Consciousness	Altered	Normal	Attention/ Concentration	Lowered	Normal	Memory	Immediate recall impaired	Immediate recall normal	Psychomotor	Hyper/ Hypoactive	Not present	Sleep-wake cycle	Reversed	Normal	/8
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Communication skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate questioning style <input type="checkbox"/> Actively listens to patient, establishes good rapport <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate conclusion, thanks patient	/3																											
Global score	Overall impression of candidate based on warmth, clarity and competence:	/5																											

	1 = fail 2 = borderline 3 = pass/expected 4 = good 5 = excellent	
	Total	/30