



Facets of a Mental Status Exam

Appearance

- Level of consciousness
- Apparent age
- Position/posture
- Attire/grooming
- Abnormal physical traits
- Eye contact

Attitude

- Cooperativeness
- Resistance

Activity

- Voluntary movement
- Involuntary movement
- Automatic movements
- Tics
- Compulsions

Mood -- normal, angry, euphoric, apathetic, dysphoric, apprehensive

Affect

- Type (see Mood)
- Intensity
- Reactivity
- Range
- Appropriateness
- Mobility

Speech and language

- Fluency
- Comprehension
- Repetition
- Naming
- Writing
- Reading
- Prosody
- Quality of speech

Thought process

- Connectedness
- Peculiar thought process

Thought content

- Delusions
- Overvalued ideas
- Obsessions
- Rumination
- Preoccupation
- Suicidal ideation
- Other violent ideas
- Phobias

Perceptual abnormalities

- Hallucinations
- Other perceptual abnormalities

Cognition

- Orientation
- Attention and concentration
- Registration
- Short-term memory
- Long-term memory
- Visuoconstructional ability
- Executive functions

Insight and judgment