



OSCE Checklist: Mental State Examination

Opening the consultation		
1	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role	
2	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth	
3	Explain that you'd like to have a chat with the patient to see how they're currently feeling	
4	Gain consent to proceed with a mental state examination	
Appearance		
5	Observe the patient's appearance	
Behaviour		
6	Note how the patient engages and if there seems to be rapport	
7	Observe the patient's level of eye contact	
8	Observe the patient's facial expressions	
9	Observe the patient's body language	
10	Identify any evidence of abnormal psychomotor activity (e.g. psychomotor retardation or restlessness)	
11	Note any abnormal movements or postures	
Speech		
12	Note the rate and quantity of the patient's speech	
13	Note the tone and volume of the patient's speech	
14	Note the fluency and rhythm of the patient's speech	
Mood and affect		
15	Explore the patient's current mood by asking appropriate questions	
16	Observe the patient's affect	
Thought		
17	Note the speed, flow and coherence of the patient's thoughts	
18	Explore the content of the patient's thoughts for abnormalities	
19	Ask about thought possession to screen for abnormalities	
Perception		
20	Explore the patient's current perception	
Cognition		
21	Formally assess the patient's cognition (e.g. AMTS, MMSE, ACE-III)	
Insight and judgement		
22	Assess the patient's current insight into their problems	

23	Assess the patient's current judgement skills	
Closing the consultation		
24	Ask the patient if they have any questions or concerns that have not been addressed	
25	Thank the patient for their time	
Key communication skills		
26	Active listening	
27	Summarising	
28	Signposting	

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