



OSCE Checklist | Psychiatric History Taking

Opening the consultation		
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate	
2	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role	
3	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth	
4	Explain that some questions may be difficult to answer	
5	Ask the patient if they'd be happy to talk with you about their current issues	
6	Establish the status of their admission (informal or detained under Mental Health Act)	
Presenting complaint		
7	Use open questioning to explore the patient's presenting complaint	
History of presenting complaint		
8	Explore the presenting complaint in more detail	
9	Conduct a risk assessment	
10	Consider taking a collateral history	
11	Explore the patient's ideas, concerns and expectations	
12	Summarise the patient's presenting complaint	
Past psychiatric history		
13	Ask the patient about their past psychiatric history	
14	Establish past psychiatric diagnoses, treatments and past contact with mental health services	
Forensic history		
15	Ask the patient about their forensic history	
Past medical history		
16	Ask if the patient has any medical conditions	
17	Ask if the patient has any allergies and if so, clarify what kind of reaction they had to the substance (e.g. mild rash vs anaphylaxis)	
Drug history		
18	Ask if the patient is currently taking any prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies	
19	Ask about recent medication changes	
20	Ask the patient if they're currently experiencing any side effects from their medication	
Family history		
21	Ask the patient if there is any family history of psychiatric or physical disease	

Personal history	
22	Ask the patient about their childhood
23	Ask about schooling and education
24	Ask the patient about their occupation and employment history
25	Ask the patient about their current and previous interpersonal relationships
26	Ask the patient about their pre-morbid personality
Social history	
27	Ask about the patient's current living circumstances
28	Ask about any children at home and identify any safeguarding issues
29	Ask the patient about their activities of daily living
30	Take a smoking history
31	Take an alcohol history
32	Ask about recreational drug use
Insight	
33	Assess the patient's insight
Closing the consultation	
34	Summarise the salient points of the history back to the patient and ask if they feel anything has been missed
35	Thank the patient for their time
36	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands
Key communication skills	
37	Active listening
38	Summarising
39	Signposting

Read the full guide at
[geekymedics.com](https://www.geekymedics.com)

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