



**Q:** Where can I find out about the paper?

**A:** P. 22 of the Assessment Handbook.

**Q:** When is it due in?

**A:** Wednesday 22 April

**Q:** How long should it be?

**A:** 2000 words



## **What should my paper be about?**

### Theory and Experience

The purpose of the essay is to demonstrate understanding of two related psychodynamic concepts which are used in clinical work.

### Theoretical Aspect

- Your paper must show that you have understood the psychodynamic concepts that you are writing about and how they relate to the psychological life of individuals
- They must show evidence of the papers you have read on the course and of your own wider reading which relates to course material

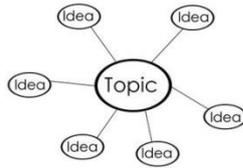
### Experiential Aspect

- You must illustrate the points you make with practical examples drawn from:
  - a. Clinical work with adult clients from your placement (internal or external)

If not in Placement:

- b. Group Experience
- c. Film or literary text

**YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE PERSONAL MATERIAL**



## **What do I need to show about my understanding of the theory?**

### What is a clinical concept?

- A clinical concept is one of the psychodynamic ideas you have studied in the seminars this year e.g. defences, transference, maternal reverie, symbolic thinking.
- You must select 2 clinical concepts. These should relate to each other. Connected concepts may be connected by reference to different theorists or different periods in the life span. e.g. oedipal issues in infancy and adolescence.
- Each of the concepts used must be defined in your own words to show your understanding and give clear references to show your sources. Short quotations may also be used.

### Being Critical

- You can now begin to engage 'critically'. This means that you can comment on ways in which ideas may prove helpful/unhelpful or may have developed over time. This shows that as well as demonstrating understanding of a concept you appreciate there may be differing views of these concepts, and you can articulate some of these.

### Knowing the limits of your understanding

- We are not asking you to provide either a fully comprehensive guide to the concepts, nor to have the last word on the subject, but rather to demonstrate the limits of your understanding. One way to do this is to raise a question as to where there may be difficulties in a concept, or where you would want to see further work done on that concept.



## **What do I need to show in my experiential material?**

- You need to use your practical examples to illustrate how you understand the clinical concepts e.g. giving an example of maternal reverie in a session.
- It is important you make clear how the concepts are understood by you within the practical example you choose.
- If you use material from client work, you must show you are able to preserve confidentiality and anonymity by disguising the client's name or just using an initial. You must state your intention to do this in the introduction and you must be careful not to include any details which could identify the person you write about.



## **How should I write my paper?**



EXAMPLES: (a) a theoretical concepts you want to look at with reference to a couple of theorists.

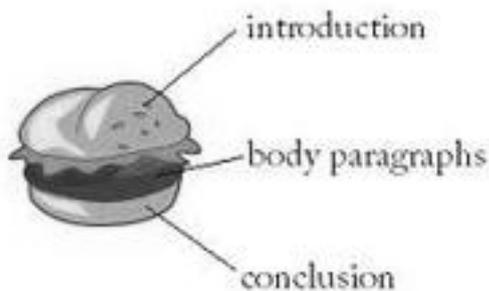
(b) a theorist whose work interests you and you want to compare to one or more other theorists

(c) focusing on a clinical concept to think about an aspect of clinical work e.g. dealing with breaks, working with the negative transference

(d) a subject which interests you e.g. depression, countertransference

HOWEVER,.....you need to choose something which is neither too broad or vague e.g. unconscious processes, or too narrow and restrictive e.g. ego dystonic transference. The term you choose should be one that appears in the psychoanalytic

literature so that you are able to quote and comment on actual examples of its use by theorists.



## **Plan a Beginning, a Middle and an End**

### **How should my paper begin?**

- Your title should summarize the concepts that you have chosen
- Your introduction should identify the concepts you are going to write about and should specify the source of the illustrative material you intend to use, explaining how you will be preserving confidentiality if you are using real people.

It can be a good idea to write your introduction last of all after the paper has taken shape.

### **How should I present my paper?**

- Define your terms. Make sure you explain each clinical concept in your own words in order to demonstrate your understanding. Where different theorists use the same terms but with different meanings make it very clear how you understand this.
- Include a reference for every concept you use, both your chosen concepts and any others that do not have general understanding e.g. psychological, unconscious, inner world.
- Quotations of less than 40 words must be included in your own text and be referenced as are those more than 40 words. See Assessment Handbook for more detail.

- You need to show a logical progression as you develop the theme of your paper, and it helps to use sub-headings to do this.
- There needs to be a balance between theoretical and illustrative material of around 75:25.
- Avoid using 'I' in the theoretical sections, although you may use it in the illustrative material.



## How should my paper end?

### Conclusion

This should address the questions raised in the Introduction and summarise your own conclusions i.e. the points you have been making

Do not introduce any concepts or new material that you have not covered in the paper

### **Final points**

- Write clearly - use spell and grammar checks
  - do not use over long sentences or paragraphs
  - use headings to help you structure
  - don't repeat yourself
- When using quotations from a text of more than 40 words start a new line, and similarly when you begin to use your illustrative material
- Include a reference section presented as outlined in the Assessment Handbook

