

Mental State Examination

- **Appearance** (posture, grooming, clothing, nutritional status, evidence of drug or alcohol misuse)
- **Behaviour** (motor activity, abnormal movements, bizarre, unpredictable actions, how is the person reacting to the situation, hostility, anger, hyper-vigilance)
- **Speech** (how is the person talking? rate-tone-quality)
- **Affect** (what do you observe about the person's emotional state)
- **Mood** (how does the person describe their emotional state?)
- **Form of thoughts** (How does the person express himself/herself?)
- **Content of thoughts** (What is the person thinking about? Bizarre, paranoid, depressed, anxious, suicidal, homicidal)
- **Perception** (is the person experiencing any misinterpretations of sensory stimuli? reported and observed)
- **Cognition**
 - is the person oriented?
 - can the person concentrate on questions asked and focus on the overall interaction?
 - Is the person able to recall recent events?
 - is the person able to make judgments about the situation?