

# Guided Reading Activity 16-1

## What Are Psychological Disorders?

For use with textbook pages 447-454

Directions: Recalling the Facts Use the information in your textbook to answer the questions.

1. Why is it difficult to draw a line between normal and abnormal behavior? what is considered normal by some people is considered abnormal by others
2. What are some problems with defining abnormality as any deviation from the majority? majority view = not always right or best / Different cultures = different norms
3. According to the adjustment definition of "normal," what type of person would be "abnormal"? Those unable to adjust to day-to-day living
4. How do some theorists view mental health as similar to physical health? there is some optimal way to function psychologically (just like physically)
5. At what point should a psychological problem be considered an "illness"? when impairs a person's ability to function from day to day
6. Why are psychological problems more difficult to classify than physical problems? psychological problems can not be classified in the same way as physical
7. In the DSM-IV, what are five categories used to describe conditions? (1) Anxiety Disorders (2) Somatoform Disorders (3) Dissociative Disorders (4) Mood Disorders (5) Schizophrenia
8. In the DSM-IV, what are diagnostic criteria? List of symptoms (taken from the list of essential and associated features)
9. What problem in earlier classification systems have the axes in the DSM-IV overcome? more consistency among psychologists and psychiatrists
10. Which axis in the DSM-IV is used to classify developmental disorders, such as autism and speech problems? Axis II
11. What does Axis IV measure? current stress level at which the person is functioning
12. What major areas are included in a description of adaptive functioning? social relations, occupational functioning, use of leisure time
13. How would you describe someone who is "highly functioning" in terms of use of leisure time? -person participates in recreational activities or hobbies that bring pleasure

Common Sense  
Mentally Handicapped  
How do you deal with life?

not clear-cut  
Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

Over

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# Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

## I. Years Of Publications

DSM – 1952

DSM – II – 1968

DSM – III – 1980

DSM – IV – 1994

## II. Diagnostic Categories

1. Essential Features – characteristics that define the disorder
2. Associated Features – additional features that are usually present
3. Differential Diagnosis – how to distinguish this disorder from others
4. Diagnostic Criteria – list of symptoms (taken from essential, associated lists)

## III. Five Axes Of Classification

### Axis I

- Classifies current symptoms into explicitly defines categories
- *Examples* : Anxiety Disorders, Somatoform Disorders, Mood Disorders, Schizophrenia, Dissociative Disorders, Eating Disorders

### Axis II

- describes developmental disorders, long-standing personality disorders, and maladaptive traits
- *Examples* : Compulsiveness, Over-Dependency, Aggressiveness, Language Disorders, Mental Retardation, Autism

### Axis III

- describes physical disorders or medical conditions that are relevant to understanding or controlling a person
- *Examples* : Brain Damage, Chemical Imbalances

### Axis IV

- measures the current stress level at which a person operates
- *Examples* : Social Readjustment Rating Scale

### Axis V

- describes the highest level of adaptive functioning present within the last year
- *Examples* : Social Relations, Occupational Functioning, Use Of Leisure Time