Classification of Schizophrenia - Mark Scheme

Q1.

[AO3 = 2]

2 marks for a clear, coherent explanation of how symptom overlap might lead to problems with diagnosis and / or classification of schizophrenia.

1 mark for a limited or muddled explanation.

Possible content:

• shared symptoms could lead to an unreliable / incorrect diagnosis (not valid)
• because the person may exhibit a symptom typical of schizophrenia (e.g. delusions) but could instead have another condition with the same symptom (e.g. bipolar disorder).

Credit other relevant explanations.

[2]

Q2.

[AO1 = 2]

2 marks for a clear, coherent outline of co-morbidity in the context of schizophrenia.

1 mark for a limited or muddled outline.

Possible content:

• co-morbidity is where two conditions co-exist in the same individual at the same time / have a tendency to co-exist alongside each other
• so a person with schizophrenia might also at the same time be suffering from another condition, e.g. personality disorder, depression, alcoholism, etc.

Credit other relevant answers.

[2]

Q3.

Marks for this question: AO1 = 6, AO3 = 10

Level	Marks	Description
4	13 – 16	Knowledge is accurate and generally well detailed. Discussion / evaluation / application is thorough and effective. The answer is clear, coherent and focused. Specialist terminology is used effectively. Minor detail and / or expansion of argument sometimes lacking.
3	9 – 12	Knowledge is evident. There are occasional inaccuracies. Discussion / evaluation / application is apparent and mostly effective. The answer is mostly

		clear and organised. Specialist terminology is mostly used effectively. Lacks focus in places.
2	5 – 8	Some knowledge is present. Focus is mainly on description. Any discussion / evaluation / application is only partly effective. The answer lacks clarity, accuracy and organisation in places. Specialist terminology is used inappropriately on occasions.
1	1 – 4	Knowledge is limited. Discussion / evaluation / application is limited, poorly focused or absent. The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has many inaccuracies and is poorly organised. Specialist terminology either absent or inappropriately used.
	0	No relevant content.

Please note that although the content for this mark scheme remains the same, on most mark schemes for the new AQA Specification (Sept 2015 onwards) content appears as a bulleted list.

AO1

Credit is awarded for description of issues concerned with classification and diagnosis of schizophrenia, most of which are related in some way to reliability and validity. Some issues are specifically relevant to schizophrenia eg the range of symptoms / sub-types of schizophrenia and the difficulty of distinguishing between them. Reference may be made to co-morbidity, culture and gender bias. Other issues surrounding the classification and diagnosis of mental disorders in general can receive credit as long as they are made relevant to schizophrenia.

AO3

Discussion should be of the issues identified when classifying and / or diagnosing schizophrenia. Answers should evaluate and offer commentary on the issues they have identified, for example by considering the consequences arising from the issue. Answers may include discussion of advantages of using classification systems in relation to effective treatment programmes and support and / or problems associated with classification and diagnosis. For example, diagnosis might lead to labelling and stigmatisation (Scheff 1966) causing long-term problems of getting / keeping employment and leading to a self-fulfilling prophecy.