

Psych Assignment Feb 15

Due end of next week! Write it in your planner or phone! Whatever works for you! Write your answers down on a separate piece of paper and staple to this page. Don't forget to have a little fun!

Total /10

What is normal or not depends on the context of the situation.

There are 3 ways to define abnormality. Page 448.

"The fact that it is difficult to define does not mean that it does not exist" (pg 450).

"....definitions of abnormality are somewhat arbitrary has led some theorists to conclude that labeling a person as mentally ill simply because their behavior is odd is a mistake as well as cruel and irresponsible." (p450).

1. Deviation from Normality 1pt

Explain this approach:

2. Adjustment 1pt

Explain this approach:

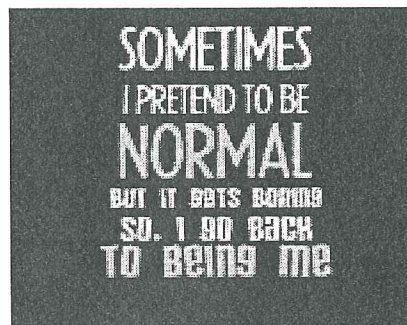
3. Psychological Health 1pt

Explain this approach:

When we define abnormality with reference to a psychological illness, there is now a classification manual that strives to streamline the medical model. DSM IV 2pts

Explain this classification tool!

FUN Psychology Lab Experiment



NORMAL OR NOT! 5pts

Let's have some fun testing our family, friends or complete strangers. You will conduct a brief experiment to identify reactions to abnormal behaviours. You will immediately write down the reactions you receive from certain abnormal/odd behaviours. Test others to see how they react when you act abnormally. A very slight departure from "normal" might elicit some very unique responses.

See if you can come up with a few behaviours that might be deemed "abnormal" in certain contexts. (Within reason of course!!) Use your discretion.

Here are a few examples you might want to try.

1. Shake the hand of a friend, but hold on for longer than usual
2. Make direct eye contact with someone with a prolonged gaze for 10 or 15 seconds.
3. Respond to a greeting such as "How are you?" with "Why do you want to know?"
4. Other?

After reading chapter 16 (section 1), see if you can come up with your own definition of abnormal and normal behavior. Write a one-two paragraph response. Finally, do you agree or disagree with the new DSM –IV classification? Why? Why not? Think about culture and context?