PSYCH401: Assessment 3
Diagnosis and Treatment: Schizophrenia
Answer Key

A) Diagnostic Impressions: To receive full credit on this portion of the question, students must mention either Psychotic NOS disorder or schizophrenia and the provide the following evidence for their conclusions:
   a. The presence of delusions (i.e., the professor is brainwashing him or his friends are plotting against him)
   b. The possible presence of hallucinations (i.e., muttering to himself as if he is responding to internal stimuli)
   c. Social/Occupational dysfunction (i.e., skipping class, strained friendships/isolation)

B) Follow-Up Questions: To receive full credit on this portion of the question, students must mention questions regarding how long the symptoms have been present. The students can mention this generally or provide specific examples of how they might frame these questions. Students’ responses must be in line with the DSM-IV diagnostic criteria, which specify the following:
   i. The characteristic symptoms must be present for much of the time during a period of a month
   ii. There must be some continuous signs of disturbance for at least six months.

C) Treatment Recommendations Based on a Particular Paradigm: To receive full credit on this portion of the question, students must explicitly state the paradigm from which they are making the treatment recommendations. Students must describe a combination of medication AND psychotherapy, as this is the treatment of choice for schizophrenia.
   a. Medication Treatment:
      i. Students must mention medication as the treatment of choice to handle positive symptoms of schizophrenia and must mention drugs which block dopamine (i.e., neuroleptics).
   b. Talk Therapy:
      i. Students must mention one of the following types of psychotherapy treatments:
         1. Therapies that focus on family environment (i.e., reducing the level of expressed emotion in the house or in other environments in which the client interacts, or any other sort of family support program)
         2. Token economy/social learning therapies to reinforce less isolation and positive behavioral engagement with others
         3. Social skills training (i.e., providing clients with better skills to interact/connect with others)
         4. Cognitive therapy (i.e., reality testing—evidence-based approach to testing the reality of thoughts)