CHAPTER 2: CLASSIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
KEY TERMS

ABC chart
An observation method that requires the observer to note what happens before the target behaviour occurs (A), what the individual did (B), and what the consequences of the behaviour were (C).

Adult Memory and Information Processing Battery (AMIPB)
A neuropsychological test in wide use in the UK, comprising two tests of speed of information processing, verbal memory tests (list learning and story recall) and visual memory tests (design learning and figure recall).

American Psychiatric Association (APA)
A scientific and professional organization that represents psychiatry in the United States.

Analogue Observations
Clinical observations carried out in a controlled environment that allows surreptitious observation of the client.

Attenuated Psychotic Symptoms Syndrome
DSM-5 has introduced disorder categories that are designed to identify populations that are at risk for future mental health problems. Attenuated Psychosis Syndrome is seen as a potential precursor to psychotic episodes.

Case Formulation
The use of clinical information to draw up a psychological explanation of the client's problems and to develop a plan for therapy

Comorbidity
The co-occurrence of two or more distinct disorders.

Computerised Axial Tomography (CAT)
A neuroimaging technique which uses sophisticated versions of X-ray machines and can be used to form a three-dimensional picture of the brain.

Concurrent Validity
A measure of how highly correlated scores of one test are with scores from other types of assessment that we know also measure that attribute.

Confirmatory Bias
A clinical bias whereby clinicians ignore information that does not support their initial hypotheses or stereotypes and they interpret ambiguous information as supporting their hypotheses.

Construct Validity
Independent evidence showing that a measure of a construct is related to other similar measures.

Cronbach's α
Statistical test used to assess the internal consistency of a questionnaire or inventory.

Cultural Bias
The phenomenon of interpreting and judging phenomena in terms particular to one's own culture.

Diagnostic & Statistical Manual (DSM)
First published in 1952 by the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the DSM extended the World Health Organisation's (WHO) International List of Causes of Death (ICD) classification system to include a more widely accepted section on mental disorders.

Disorder Spectrum
The frequency of comorbidity suggests that most disorders as defined by DSM may indeed not be independent discrete disorders, but may represent symptoms of a disorder spectrum that represents a higher-order categorical class of symptoms.

Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA)
The use of diaries for self- observation or self-monitoring, perhaps by using an electronic diary or a palmtop computer.

Ecological validity
The extent to which conditions simulated in the laboratory reflect real-life conditions.

Electrocardiogram (ECG)
A psychophysiological measurement technique used for measuring heart rate.

Electrodermal Responding
A psychophysiological measure which uses electrodes attached to the fingers of participants to test emotional responses such as anxiety, fear or anger by measuring changes in sweat gland activity.

Electroencephalogram (EEG)
A psychophysiological assessment measure which involves electrodes being attached to the scalp that record underlying electrical activity and can help to localize unusual brain patterns in different areas of the brain.

Electromyogram (EMG)
A psychophysiological measurement technique that measures the electrical activity in muscles.

Face Validity
The idea that a particular assessment method may appear to be valid simply because it has questions which intuitively seem relevant to the trait or characteristic being measured.

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)
A development of MRI technology which allows the clinician to take brain images so quickly that tiny changes in brain metabolism can be detected and can provide minute-to-minute information about actual brain activity.

Halstead-Reitan Neuropsychological Test Battery
A common neuropsychological test used in the USA, compiled to evaluate brain and nervous system functioning across a fixed set of eight tests. The tests evaluate function across visual, auditory and tactile input, verbal communication, spatial and sequential perception,

the ability to analyse information, and the ability to form mental concepts, make judgments, control motor output and to attend to and memorize stimuli.

Hybrid Disorders
Disorders that contain elements of a number of different disorders.

Hypothetical Constructs
Constructs that are not necessarily directly observable but have to be inferred from other data.

Inter-Rater Reliability
The degree to which two independent clinicians actually agree when interpreting or scoring a particular test.

Internal Consistency
The extent to which all the items in a test consistently relate to one another.

International List of Causes of Death (ICD)
The international standard diagnostic classification developed by the World Health Organization (WHO). IQ (Intelligence Quotient) Tests.

Lie Detectors
The measurement of changes in autonomic responding used to identify whether an individual is lying in response to specific preset questions. This technique has often been used in criminal prosecutions and employment screening.

Mild Neurocognitive Disorder
DSM-5 has introduced disorder categories that are designed to identify populations that are at risk for future mental health problems, and these include Mild Neurocognitive Disorder, which diagnoses cognitive decline in the elderly.

Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE)
A structured test that takes 10 minutes to administer and can provide reliable information on a client's overall levels of cognitive and mental functioning.

Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI)
The most well-known of the personality inventories used by clinical psychologists and psychiatrists.

Mixed Anxiety-Depression Disorder
An example of a hybrid disorder whereby people exhibit symptoms of both anxiety and depression, yet do not meet the threshold for either an anxiety or a depression diagnosis.

MMPI Profile
A graph providing a distinctive profile indicating the client's general personality features, potential psychopathology and emotional needs taken from the results of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
A neuroimaging technique which scans to allow measurement of both brain structure and function by utilizing radiation emitted from the participant to develop images.

Predictive Validity
The degree to which an assessment method is able to help the clinician predict future behaviour and future symptoms.

Projective Tests
A group of tests usually consisting of a standard fixed set of stimuli that are presented to clients, but which are ambiguous enough for clients to put their own interpretation on what the stimuli represent.

Psychometric Approach
The idea that a psychological test assumes that there are stable underlying characteristics or traits (e.g. anxiety, depression, compulsiveness, worry) that exist at different levels in everyone.

Reliability
The extent that an assessment method will still provide the same result when used by different clinicians on different occasions.

Rorschach Inkblot Test
A projective personality test using inkblots by dropping ink onto paper and then folding the paper in half to create a symmetrical image.

Self-Monitoring
A form of clinical observation which involves asking clients to observe and record their own behaviour, to note when certain behaviours or thoughts occur, and in what contexts they occur.

Self-Observation
A form of clinical observation that involves asking clients to observe and record their own behaviour, perhaps by using a diary or a palmtop computer to note when certain behaviours or thoughts occur and in what contexts they occur.

Sentence Completion Test
An open-ended projective personality test that provides clients with the first part of an uncompleted sentence which they complete with words of their own.

Standardisation
The establishment of statistical norms for clinical tests, which allows the clinician to see where an individual client's score on the test falls in relation to the normal distribution of scores for that test.

Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV-TR (SCID)
A branching, structured interview in which the client's response to one question will determine the next question to be asked.

Structured Interview
An interview in which questions to be asked, their sequence and detailed information to be gathered are all predetermined.

Syndrome
A distinct set of symptoms.

Test-Retest Reliability
The extent that a test will produce roughly similar results when the test is given to the same person several weeks or even months apart (as long as no treatments or interventions have occurred in between).

Thematic Apperception Test (TAT)
A projective personality test consisting of 30 black and white pictures of people in vague or ambiguous situations.

Unstructured Interview
A free-flowing interview in which questions to be asked, their sequence and detailed information to be gathered are not predetermined.

Validity
The extent that an assessment method actually does measure what it claims to be measuring.

Weschler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)
A test designed to measure intelligence in adults and older adolescents. It contains scales that measure vocabulary, arithmetic ability, digit span, information comprehension, letter-number sequencing, picture completion ability, reasoning ability, symbol search and object assembly ability.