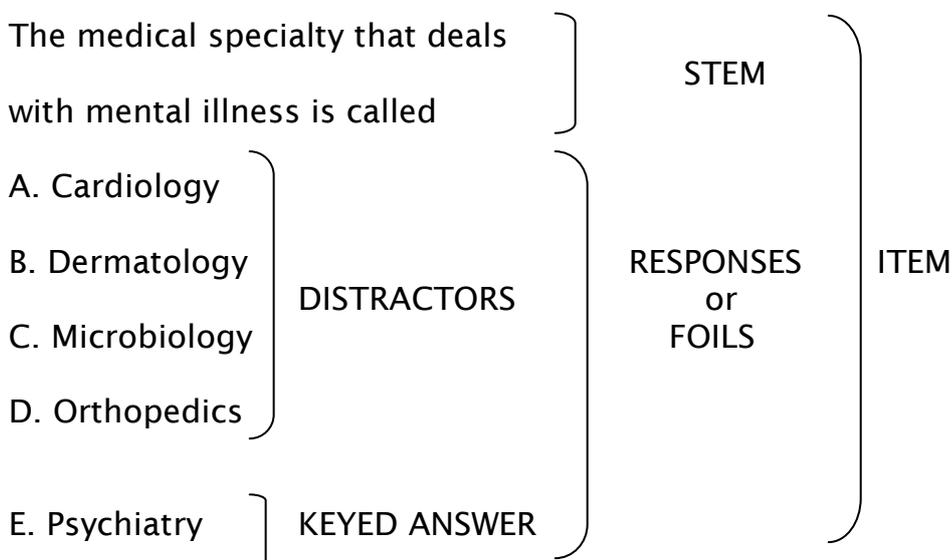


## The Multiple Choice Question: Single Best Response ( MCQ A Type )

The single best response MCQ or A Type MCQ is an incomplete statement followed by 4 or 5 possible completions of the statement. The MCQ can also be written as a question followed by 4 or 5 possible answers to the question.

The statement or question part is called the STEM. The possible completions or answers are called RESPONSES or FOILS. The RESPONSES (or FOILS) are divided into the KEYED ANSWER (correct or best response) and the DISTRACTORS (incorrect or non-best responses).



### THE SINGLE BEST RESPONSE TYPE MCQ

#### DIRECTIONS:

Encircle the alphabet corresponding to the SINGLE BEST RESPONSE.

- The medical specialty that deals with mental illness is
  - Cardiology
  - Dermatology
  - Microbiology
  - Orthopedics
  - Psychiatry
- In which state of India is Manipal located?
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Bihar
  - Karnataka
  - Kerala
  - Orissa.

**GUIDELINES FOR FRAMING MCQs OF SINGLE BEST RESPONSE TYPE (A TYPE)**

**GUIDELINES FOR USE OF THE FORMAT:**

1. The instructions for answering must be very clear.
2. The item should be written in conformity with the standard format, for example the responses should be preceded by CAPITAL LETTERS: A,B,C,D,E..

**GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE STEM:**

3. The stem should present a single clearly formulated problem and be stated as a question or an incomplete statement.
4. The stem should contain as much of the wording as possible.
5. Extraneous material (window dressing) in the stem should be avoided.
6. Negatives should be avoided unless the negative information is of particular importance and if used, the negative aspect should be emphasized (by underlining or by using CAPITALS).

**GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE RESPONSES:**

7. The keyed answer should be correct or clearly the best.
8. Clues to the keyed answer such as the following should be avoided:
  - a. length of response
  - b. grammar in relation to the stem
  - c. verbal clues
  - d. illogically placed responses.
9. "All of the above" should be used with discretion.
10. "None of the above" is best used when it is specifically important to exclude each of the other responses.

**INDIVIDUAL TASK (for MCQs of A type)**

Answer the following items by indicating T(True) or F(False) in the space (----) provided to the left of the item.

- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 1. An item is composed of a stem and responses.
- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 2. The responses should be numbered 1, 2,3,4,5.
- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 3. The stem should be stated as a question or incomplete statement.
- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 4. Items which ask for the student's personal opinion can be asked.
- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 5. Items asking for a judgment by the student can be asked.
- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 6. Administering items to faculty is one good method of determining whether the keyed response is correct or best.
- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 7. All responses should be approximately equal in length and amount of detail.
- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 8. The responses should be arranged in an alphabetical or logical order.
- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 9. "None of the above" is ideally used as a response in situations involving a critical decision and when each of the other foils is clearly false.
- ( \_\_\_\_ ) 10. "All of the above" and "None of the above" can both be used in a single item.