

## First Assessment Madness and Society

*1,500 word source-based essay (10%): Students will identify and reflect critically on a key source/archive. This might also work towards your 3,000 word essay.*

You can tackle this in various ways. One possibility is to work with a source/document that we have covered in the reading – or will cover. I've provided a few examples below.

You will also need to draw on the secondary scholarship to help frame and contextualise your source and argument. So, for example, if you are exploring Samuel Tuke's 'Description of the Retreat', reading up on Anne Digby's work, Barry Edgerton's article and Roy Porter's summary of the work of the Retreat would provide you with good context to discuss the question and to explore moral therapy.

The other approach is to work with one of the sources we are exploring each week (source of the week) – this will require more digging on your part to identify e.g. case notes and reports on private asylums via the Wellcome Library's digital resources or the Old Bailey Online – but will give you experience of both exploring and investigating a larger archival collection.

You might also want to identify your own source material to explore (in which case we need to confirm this by email, along with a title).

This exercise will provide you with good experience of utilising sources, thinking about how they might answer research questions and will be of great value as preparation for your 3,000 word essay and dissertations (even if you are not doing one for this module). It's a great transferrable skill too!

Remember a source can also be a film, image (photographs, paintings, illustrations), newspaper extracts, magazine articles or novels/short stories (e.g. Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*).

Any concerns, or to agree a title if you are not choosing one of options below, then please send me an email. I'm going to keep Thursday of reading week free to answer questions/meet on Teams.

### **1. In what ways do Richard Napier's casebooks shed light on the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorder in the seventeenth century?**

Source: Cambridge Casebooks Project:  
<https://casebooks.lib.cam.ac.uk/reading-the-casebooks/who-were-the-practitioners/richard-napier>

See also Peter Elmer and Ole Peter Grell (eds), *Health, Disease and Society in Europe 1500-1800: A Source Book* (Manchester University Press, with the Open University, 2004), Part 9 'The Care and Cure of the Insane in Early

Modern Europe', pp. 231-41. Multiple copies in library and on Talis Aspire, and then draw on several other readings to contextualise your account.

**2. What can Cruden's account of his incarceration tell us about eighteenth-century private asylums and the 'care' of the insane? OR How does Cruden's 'The London Citizen Exceedingly Injured' shed light on the phenomenon of wrongful confinement?**

Source: Alexander Cruden, 'The London-Citizen Exceedingly Injured', (1739), is available on ECCO (Eighteenth Century Collections Online), type in 'Cruden, London Citizen'.

You could also take the case of Samuel Bruckshaw, 'One More Proof to the Iniquitous Abuse of Private Madhouses (1774), to analyse the same questions. This is on ECCO, search under Samuel Bruckshaw.

Again be sure to draw on secondary reading to provide context for your discussion e.g. Len Smith's new book, *Private Madhouses in England*, which has a chapter on wrongful confinement (e-book), Roy Porter and Parry-Jones.

**3. How does Thomas Bakewell's, *Domestic Guide* (1805) illuminate approaches to the treatment of mental disorder and how innovative was he?**

Like many nineteenth-century medical texts, Bakewell's is available online on archive.org (simply google Bakewell, Domestic Guide, archive.org and up it pops! – this should work for many medical texts, for eighteenth-century sources, search ECCO).

Then contextualise by drawing on the literature on private asylums and asylum treatment more broadly.

**4. How does Samuel Tuke's 'Description of the Retreat' support our understanding of the system of moral therapy and how was this put into practice in York?**

Samuel Tuke, 'Description of the Retreat' (1813). The entire text of 'Description' is available on-line (type 'Tuke, Samuel, Retreat' into library catalogue).

Again draw on the readings on moral management in general and the York Retreat in particular.

**5. How did W.A.F. Browne explain his vision of the ideal asylum and was this vision achievable?**

'What Asylums Ought to Be', Lecture V, W.A.F. Browne, 'What Asylums Were, Are, and Ought to Be' (1837), in Andrew Scull (ed.), *The Asylum as Utopia: W.A.F. Browne and the Mid-Nineteenth Century Consolidation of*

*Psychiatry* (London and New York: Tavistock/Routledge, 1991), pp. 176-231. Chapter scanned (course extracts HI383), available via Talis Aspire and two copies of book in library.

Contextualise this drawing on the very rich literature on nineteenth-century asylums e.g. Andrew Scull, David Wright, Jo Melling and Laurence Ray's article (Topic 5).

### **6. How was hysteria framed and treated in the nineteenth century? OR Why was hysteria increasingly described as a female malady in the nineteenth century?**

Set of extracts on hysteria from Jalland and Hooper (eds), *Women from Birth to Death* will be added to Moodle, but you could also discover your own sources e.g. in the *Lancet* or *Journal of Mental Science* or in British Periodical Collections (online), all available via the library.

There is a rich secondary literature on hysteria, including Elaine Showalter, *The Female Malady* and her book *Hystories* and e.g. articles by Anne Digby, Nancy Theriot, and Carol Smith-Rosenberg (Topic 7).

### **7. How does *The Yellow Wallpaper* shed light on the gendering of mental disorder in the late nineteenth century?**

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Yellow Wallpaper*. There are numerous editions of this in the library: the essay is reprinted e.g. in Dale M. Bauer (ed.), *The Yellow Wallpaper* (Boston: Bedford Books, 1998). The short story is widely discoverable online and available via Talis Aspire.

Draw on readings for Topic 7 and Topic 11 'Shattered Nerves' for background reading, including Showalter again, Janet Oppenheim, David Schuster's article and the essays in Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra and Roy Porter (eds), *Cultures of Neurasthenia*.

### **8. What can patient narratives add to the study of the history of madness?**

You can draw on many resources to answer this question, including Cruden or *The Yellow Wallpaper*.

The Wellcome Library has digitised many patient accounts – these include John Perceval (careful with spelling), *A Narrative of the Treatment Experienced by a Gentleman* (1838) – he was an unwilling patient at Edward Long Fox's Brislington House.

[https://search.wellcomelibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C\\_Rb2144511\\_SJohn%20Perceval\\_P0%2C5\\_Orightresult\\_U\\_X4?lang=eng&suite=cobalt](https://search.wellcomelibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C_Rb2144511_SJohn%20Perceval_P0%2C5_Orightresult_U_X4?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)

Topic 12 explores the patient's view and you will find excellent extracts representing the patient's view in Allan Ingram's books, Roy Porter, *Faber*

*Book of Madness* and Dale Peterson (ed.), *A Mad People's History of Madness* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1981). (the latter is an ebook and includes extracts on George Trosse, Alexander Cruden, William Cowper, Daniel Paul Schreber, Vaslav Nijinsky, etc.).

Alexandra Bacopoulos-Viau and Aude Fauvel, 'The Patient's Turn: Roy Porter and Psychiatry's Tales, Thirty Years On' (introduction to Special Issue of *Medical History*), 60 (2016), 1-18, and the essays in this issue (online) will be helpful as will Roy Porter's *A Social History of Madness*, which also includes an account of John Perceval's confinement (alas not an e-book and we used our copyright limit with his article on George III!).

**9. How do the proceedings of the Old Bailey illuminate the use and success of the insanity plea? (You could limit this in terms of date or particular kinds of trial e.g. for infanticide or murder)?**

A small number of trial proceedings should provide enough evidence, many are long: <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org>

As well as illuminating how psychiatry attempted to establish expertise in the courtroom, there is sometimes good insight into the 'power struggles' between prison surgeons and expert witnesses. There is an excellent literature on the use of the insanity plea e.g. Richard Smith and Joel Eigen in the section on Psychiatry in the Courtroom, Topic 8. My essay on 'Getting Away with Murder' is a good starting point for a discussion of infanticide and the insanity plea.

**10. Can case histories be useful in developing our understanding of attitudes towards insanity and its treatment in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?**

For this dip into the Wellcome Library's digital collection – the Holloway Sanatorium comes highly recommended, as the case notes are fairly easy to read, and they include photographs (opens 1885).

Jonathan Andrews, 'Case Notes, Case Histories, and the Patient's Experience of Insanity at Gartnavel Royal Asylum, Glasgow, in the Nineteenth Century', *Social History of Medicine*, 11 (1998), 255-81. e-journal has a good general discussion of case notes and see the section under 'The patient's view' on case notes, Topic 11. There is a good literature on the York Retreat, Ticehurst Hospital (under Topic 3 on private asylums) and Holloway. An essay in Jonathan Andrews and Anne Digby (eds), *Sex and Seclusion, Class and Custody* (e-book) by Anne Shepherd looks at female patients in Holloway Sanatorium. And Anne becomes Anna (confusing!!) – this is her book, *Anna Shepherd, Institutionalizing the Insane in Nineteenth-Century England* (2014), that covers Holloway Sanatorium and is an e-book.