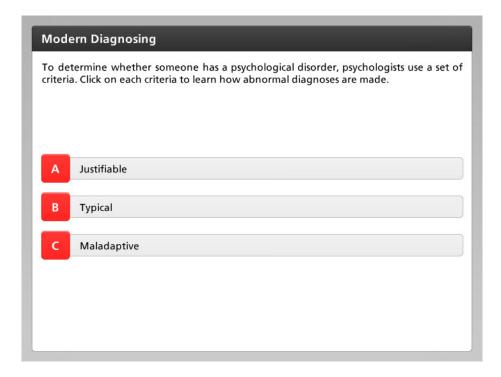
Module 9: Psychological Disorders and Treatment Topic 1 Content: Modern Diagnosing Notes

Introduction

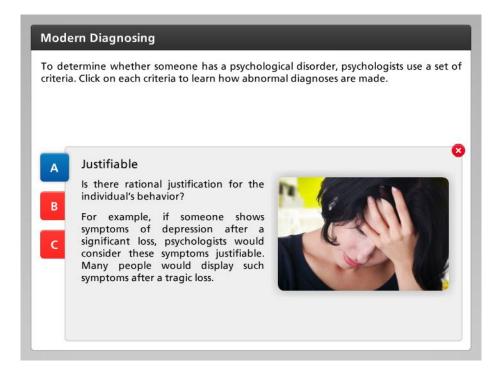


To determine whether someone has a psychological disorder, psychologists use a set of criteria. Click on each criteria to learn how abnormal diagnoses are made.



Module 9: Psychological Disorders and Treatment Topic 1 Content: Modern Diagnosing Notes

Justifiable



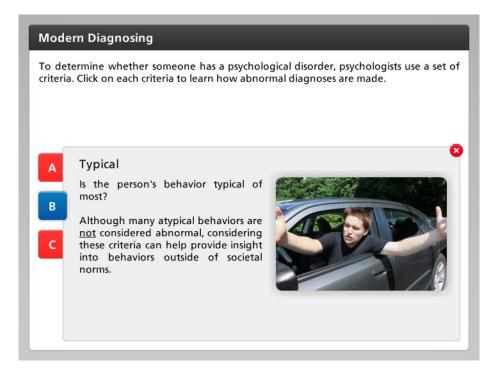
Is there rational justification for the individual's behavior?

For example, if someone shows symptoms of depression after a significant loss, psychologists would consider these symptoms justifiable. Many people would display such symptoms after a tragic loss.



Module 9: Psychological Disorders and Treatment Topic 1 Content: Modern Diagnosing Notes

Typical



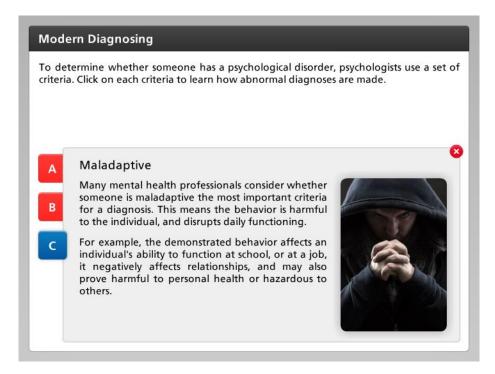
Is the person's behavior typical of most?

Although many atypical behaviors are <u>not</u> considered abnormal, considering these criteria can help provide insight into behaviors outside of societal norms.



Module 9: Psychological Disorders and Treatment Topic 1 Content: Modern Diagnosing Notes

Maladaptive



Many mental health professionals consider whether someone is maladaptive the most important criteria for a diagnosis. This means the behavior is harmful to the individual, and disrupts daily functioning.

For example, the demonstrated behavior affects an individual's ability to function at school, or at a job, it negatively affects relationships, and may also prove harmful to personal health or hazardous to others.

