Question 2: Classification with Special Reference to DSM-IV

Start a new blue book, on the cover of the blue book or top of the computer page, write: the
digits of your student number as listed on the brown envelope, Question 2 Clinical Exam, and
Date. Limit blue book answer to sixteen single-sided pages. Computer generated -- no more than
five pages (10-point) double-spaced.

ANSWER EITHER QUESTION 2A OR 2B, NOT BOTH

**Question 2A: Adult.** Beginning with DSM-III (1980), modern nosologies have been multiaxial in
format, requiring clinicians to evaluate their patients' status on several dimensions simultaneously.
Discuss briefly the history and utility of the 5 diagnostic axes in DSM-IV. An additional diagnostic
axis, Axis VI: Recommended Treatments, has occasionally been proposed as a possible refinement of
the DSM. Develop an argument either in support of or in opposition to such an Axis VI. Discuss
concerns about clinicians being locked into a particular treatment approach; about possible theoretical
issues and conflicts, methodological issues, economic issues, etc.

**Question 2B: Child.** Consider and describe the DSM IV’s approach to diagnosing mental disorders in
children and adolescents. How is it useful and how is it not useful in considering the developmental
changes that all children and adolescents undergo, and the differing environments that they find
themselves in over time (e.g. family, school, etc.)? Describe alternative ways of considering disorders
and contrast them with the DSM in their utility for understanding diagnosis in general, and children or
adolescents in particular. Pick one of the following disorders and use it to illustrate your points:
ADHD, ODD/CD, Major Depressive Disorder.