

ASSESS+

FOCUS	EXPLANATION	INDICATOR
A	ACCOUNT PROBLEMS Anomalies in the person’s disclosures concerning everything that happened within the Material Time Frame . <i>Note The person’s disclosures comprise:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • his or her account(s) • his or her responses to requests for expansion and explanation of detail. 	Identifiable problems with detail
		Missing detail.
		Gaps (= missing steps).
		Jumps (= big gap in time; sudden shift in location).
		Absence of reasonably expected detail (= “non-barking dog”).
		“Thin” story (= lacks detail throughout: ‘agenda’-like account of ‘what happened’).
		Non-specific (= vague or ambiguous).
		“Sidesteps” (= passive verb use; “not really...”)
		Inconsistency (= doesn’t ‘fit’ with prior detail).
		Contradiction (= different versions).
Too “pat” [Note: two versions compared] (= same wording, same order, little/no ‘narrative reversal, too many descriptors).		
Narrative “contrast” (= variation in detail).		
Other (specify).		
S	SENSE PROBLEMS The person’s representation/explanation of events does not make sense when considered objectively.	Detail which questions validity
		Improbable (= difficult to believe).
		Impossible (= counter to reality: can’t occur/be done).
		Nonsensical
		Counter to reasonable behaviour.
Other (specify).		
S	STRUGGLING TO GIVE DETAIL The person struggles, or is unable, to respond to the request for detail: even when reminded/encouraged to take time and to think before speaking.	When probed the person
		Struggles to go beyond the original story.
		Repeats minimal or non-specific detail.
		Admits inability to give further detail.
		Other (specify).
E	EVASION The person avoids disclosing detail.	When probed the person
		Tries to change the topic.
		Answers the question with a question.
		Gives measured/evasive responses.
		“Blanks” an echo probe (= repeats minimal or non-specific detail).
		“Sidesteps” (= passive verb use; “not really...”)
Other (specify).		
S	SABOTAGING BEHAVIOUR The person obstructs the process of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being briefed/informed • being assisted • being called upon to give reasonable detail. 	When briefed/probed the person
		Argues.
		Becomes angry.
		Becomes abusive.
		Threatens.
		Refuses to be helped.
		Refuses to co-operate.
		Other (specify).
S	SIGNIFICANT EXPRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR The person’s vocal behaviour changes indicating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physiological and psychological arousal • difficulties thinking – or thinking twice - before and while talking. 	When probed the person’s speech has
		Marked dysfluencies (not occurring before).
		Marked pauses before/when answering.
		Changes in voice pitch.
		Changes from self-control to gabbling.
		Other (specify).
+	CONTEXT FACTORS	