Figure 3-6: Blessed Orientation-Memory-Concentration Test (BOMC)

The Blessed Orientation-Memory-Concentration Test (BOMC) is an extremely condensed form (consisting of only six simple verbal questions) of a larger 26-question instrument, the Information-Memory-Concentration Mental Status Test (IMCMST) devised by Blessed and colleagues. On the BOMC the items range from easy to difficult, in order of increasing difficulty: time of day, count 20 to one backwards, month, year, months backward, and memory phrase. As with the MMSE, this tool is sometimes used as an initial screen to alert clinicians to the possibility of cognitive impairment and to monitor this condition. It is provider-administered and usually takes less than five minutes to complete. Like MMSE, it is a sensitive indicator of cognitive impairment but not diagnosis-specific for delirium or dementia.

ITEMS		MAXIMUM ERROR	SCORE		WEIGHT		
1	What *year* is it now?	1	_____	x	4	=	_____
2	What *month* is it now?	1	_____	x	3	=	_____
Memory phrase	Repeat this phrase after me: John Brown, 42 Market Street, Chicago						
3	About what *time* is it?	1	_____	x	3	=	_____
4	*Count* backwards 20 to 1	2	_____	x	2	=	_____
5	Say the months in reverse order	2	_____	x	2	=	_____
6	Repeat the memory phrase	5	_____	x	2	=	_____

Score of 1 for each incorrect response; maximum weighted error score = 28.

A score above 10 is rated as abnormal.