

ASWB Clinical Practice Questions

1. Families in which incest has occurred MOST often have one of the following characteristics:

- a) High-conflict relationships.
- b) A chaotic lifestyle.
- c) Permissive attitudes about sexuality.
- d) Enmeshed family member relationships.

2. A family therapy approach is not appropriate when:

- a) The identified client has no desire or intent to cooperate.
- b) Relationship boundaries are routinely violated.
- c) There is a pattern of family secret-keeping.
- d) Family members are deliberately destructive and deceitful.

3. The following criteria are all used to distinguish substance abuse from substance dependence EXCEPT:

- a) Symptoms of substance abuse are usually less severe than those of dependence.
- b) The problematic effects of abuse are usually limited to family, finances, employment, and legal issues (e.g., driving under the influence), while dependence also involves significant physiological problems.
- c) Substance abuse typically involves narcotics, while dependence typically involves non-narcotic drugs.
- d) Abuse is typically limited to recreational use, while dependence involves the need for increasing doses for the desired effect and withdrawal symptoms if not used regularly.

4. A social worker administers a “Draw-a-Person” test to a young child during an assessment interview. The test is designed to evaluate:

- a) Self-image.
- b) Eye-hand coordination.
- c) Personality structure.
- d) Thought processes.

5. A 22-year-old female has been referred to a social worker for treatment of her fear of flying. She is getting married and hopes to honeymoon in Hawaii, and desperately wants to overcome her fear. She has no relevant history of trauma related to heights or flying. The social worker receiving the referral was trained in and exclusively uses a psychoanalytic approach to treatment. In this situation, for optimal treatment, the social worker should refer the client to someone specializing in:

- a) Gestalt therapy.
- b) Cognitive-behavioral therapy.
- c) Rational-emotive therapy.
- d) Reality therapy.

6. As a social worker working with clients in a court-ordered treatment program, often the MOST difficult treatment issue is:

- a) The social worker's own personal feelings about the problem being treated.
- b) Client anger at being coerced into the treatment process.
- c) Client ambivalence about the need for treatment.
- d) The limited availability of help for the client.

7. During an intake interview, a client addresses numerous issues and concerns. She has been coping with multiple personal health issues, a child is having problems in school, and her husband is increasingly abusing alcohol which is affecting their marriage. As she talks, her speech becomes rapid and intense, reflecting the stress she feels at each of these concerns. At this juncture, the social worker's BEST response would be to:

- a) Focus on the husband's drinking and the problems this creates for the family.
- b) Acknowledge her many challenges and ask which she wants to focus on.
- c) Hear each of the client's complaints, and then summarize and review them at the close of the session.
- d) Encourage the client to specify more clearly why she came for help.

8. After a therapeutic relationship has ended, a client approaches a social worker to join in various family activities (birthday celebrations, holiday events, etc). In light of the fact that a past professional relationship existed, yet acknowledging that it has formally ended, the social worker's BEST response would be to:

- a) Attend only small family gatherings as a show of care and support.
- b) Accept any invitation that time will allow to show uncompromising support.
- c) Attend some events, and invite the client out to others as well, so that the activities do not become one-sided.
- d) Clarify that even after a professional relationship ends, socializing is not appropriate.

9. A social worker is seeing a woman who has been diagnosed with HIV (she is seropositive but is not yet symptomatic with symptoms of the AIDS syndrome). She has revealed that she is having unprotected sex with a new boyfriend. Further, she shares needles with him in mutual drug use situations. She also admits that he does not know she is HIV positive. The social worker has counseled her at length to reveal her status to the boyfriend, but she refuses. She indicates that if she tells him of her situation, he will leave her. Thus, she flatly refuses to disclose her condition to him. In this situation the MOST appropriate response would be to:

- a) Inform the client that if she does not discontinue the behaviors or have the boyfriend acknowledge that he is aware of her condition within one month, the social worker will be required to warn him over her objections.
- b) Call local law enforcement and ask them to evaluate the situation.
- c) Continue counseling her, but do nothing more about the situation.
- d) Make an immediate effort to contact the boyfriend and warn him.