

ASWB LMSW Exam

Volume: 261 Questions

Question No: 1

Lisa is a social worker who has received a case referred for possible child abuse. She realizes keeping the children safe is her top priority. The household consists of two parents and three children. There are steps to determine if abuse may have occurred or if the family is at-risk. Which kind of assessment should she use to determine the best possible assistance for this referral?

- A. Financial assessment
- B. Child welfare assessment
- C. Parent assessment
- D. Family-centered assessment

Answer: D

Explanation: The family-centered assessment focuses on the family as a whole with full participation. All cultures and ethnicities are considered throughout. Families will identify their strengths, needs and resources in an effort to develop a functioning service plan to maintain safety and permanency.

Question No: 2

Cassandra works as a case manager for Child Protective Services. A new family she has been helping has a parent that is starting to raise red flags. The mother is the sole caretaker for the children but is demonstrating some peculiar behaviors. She has not kept consecutive doctor's appointments, has difficulty utilizing public transportation and fails to follow through with basic directions. This parent is always accompanied by another adult when she leaves the home on an errand. When Cassandra starts questioning the mother on her background, it is discovered that she attended special education classes and did not graduate from high school. These factors should arouse concern in what area?

- A. Child neglect
- B. Child abuse
- C. Intellectual limitations
- D. Financial distress

Answer: C

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Explanation: Parents with intellectual limitations often demonstrate less positive child-rearing practices. They fail to recognize their children's needs and lack the skills to advocate for them. A social worker should help the parents become aware of eligible community resources and make referrals as deemed appropriate.

Question No: 3

A social worker meets with a family to gather information that will help identify patterns of parental behavior, both positive and negative, over time. The family's strengths are distinguished to determine protective factors that aid in identifying resources to help the household meet its needs. Overall requirements are addressed that affect the permanency and safety of the children. Information gathered through other assessments is also used to help develop a service plan or plan for intervention. What kind of evaluation is being described?

- A. Initial assessment
- B. Safety assessment
- C. Environmental assessment
- D. Comprehensive family assessment

Answer: D

Explanation: The comprehensive family assessment gathers all background information on its members and evaluates the home environment. Contributing factors are discussed, such as domestic violence, lack of employment, alcohol/drug usage, and educational background. A social worker will also collect information on who lives in the home and the parent's culture, health and finances.

Question No: 4

A referral comes into the local Children's Protective Services in regards to a female infant. The concerns raised by the informant include a lack of nutrition and improper supervision. Neighbors hear the baby cry at all hours of the night for long lengths of time. The parents leave the home before dark and do not seem to reappear until dawn the next day. Groceries brought into the home are noticeably snack foods and alcohol. The social worker responding will need to complete what kind of assessment?

- A. Comprehensive family assessment
- B. Functional assessment
- C. Economic assessment

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D. Initial assessment

Answer: D

Explanation: The initial assessment is the first priority with a new referral that may indicate a child's needs are not being met. This is brief and determines whether there are concerns of significant harm, neglect, abuse, and whether services are required. If a child is found to be in need, further assessments will be completed.

Question No: 5

All initial assessments should be conducted by an experienced and qualified social worker. Before confronting the family, there should be a plan about who is doing what and when information can be shared with the parents. Which of the following should be part of an initial assessment?

- A. Verifying Medicaid coverage
- B. Observing the child with both parents present
- C. Seeing and speaking to family members as appropriate
- D. Allowing the referent to sit in on all interviews

Answer: C

Explanation: The social worker should speak to family members as appropriate in their ideal language. Children should be interviewed alone with the consent of the parent or caretaker. If consent is not given, other means should be utilized. The referent should be involved as far as obtaining relevant information.

Question No: 6

A social worker visits a home after a referral comes in about inappropriate disciplinary techniques being utilized by a mother of a nine-year-old boy. The child is described as out of control, and the parent spansks him five or six times a day. The mother has been heard screaming at the boy, and this has not helped the situation. Shortly into the initial assessment, it is discovered the child has been referred for ADHD testing by a counselor at school. The mother feels her son is simply defiant and angry because his father left the family two years ago. Should the social worker be concerned?

- A. Yes, the mother has unrealistic expectations of her child's possible disability.
- B. No, the mother is handling the situation and understands her son's emotional problems.
- C. Yes, the child should be referred to juvenile services for aggressive behaviors.

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D. No, the neighbors are just trying to start trouble for the family.

Answer: A

Explanation: There are issues of concern that should be further investigated by the social worker. The child is not receiving adequate care for his disability. A child with ADHD may demonstrate behaviors of defiance, aggressiveness and temper tantrums. The nine year-old may be displaying behaviors related to his disability and the mother has unrealistic expectations.

Question No: 7

Sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect are attributable to a lack of appropriate parental care. When one of these problem is serious enough to adversely affect the progress and enjoyment of a child's life it is defined as what?

A. Emergency removal

B. Significant harm

C. Poor parenting

D. Medical neglect

Answer: B

Explanation: Significant harm is the main component that justifies intervention in the best interest of a child. There are no absolute criteria to rely on when judging the extent. A single violent episode may constitute significant harm, but usually it is the accumulation of events that leads to damage in a child's development.

Question No: 8

A social worker is confirming that an assessment plan flows naturally from child and family to service planning. To assess needs and recognizing positive strengths, she conducts face-to-face meetings. Other agencies may be involved including teachers, therapists, and other community support systems. What type of assessment encompasses all of the above?

A. Cognitive behavioral assessment

B. Family fundamentals assessment

C. Community relations assessment

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D. Functional assessment

Answer: D

Explanation: A functional assessment is one of the key factors in achieving the well-being, safety and permanence of a child. The family and child are engaged as partners in the entire process. Family assessments are needs-based, team-based and strengths-based. They make use of family systems relationships.

Question No: 9

Of the following types of studies, which are concerned with the effects of drugs on behavior, thought, perception, or mood?

A. Pharmaceutical studies

B. Psychopharmacological studies

C. Psychoactive studies

D. Chemical reactions

Answer: B

Explanation: Psychopharmacology refers to the study of drug-induced changes in thinking, mood and behavior. The most widely studied drugs are those available for treatment of mental disorders. Psychopharmacology is primarily focused on chemical interactions with the brain.

Question No: 10

Citalopram or Celexa is often used to treat depression. It comes in tablet form and should be taken by mouth one time per day. This drug is in a class of antidepressants called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). How does citalopram work?

A. It reduces anxiety.

B. It speeds up circuits in the brain.

C. It increases the amount of serotonin in the brain.

D. It decreases the amount of serotonin in the brain.

Answer: C

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Explanation: Citalopram increases the amount of serotonin in the brain. Increasing the amount of serotonin helps maintain mental balance for people suffering from depression. Other common uses for Citalopram include treating eating disorders, panic disorders, premenstrual dysphoric disorder and social phobias. Many doctors will start their patients out on a low dose and slowly increase it over a series of weeks.

Question No: 11

What is the first step in a psychological assessment?

- A. Family medical history
- B. Biographical history
- C. Bio psychosocial history
- D. Mental evaluation

Answer: C

Explanation: The first step in a psychological assessment is a bio psychosocial history, which involves identifying chief complaint, past psychological history, present illnesses, and current mental status. Sometimes this information is difficult to obtain if the patient is unwilling to aid in disclosure. Once this information is obtained, neurological and psychological testing can take place. When all information is collected, the patient is informed of the results and treatment begins.

Question No: 12

Phillip is a 24-year-old male who has been in prison on four different occasions. His criminal record includes domestic assault on a girlfriend, stealing a car, setting fire to an abandoned warehouse and drug use. None of Phillip's acts were premeditated, and he claims to have little control over his actions. What disorder might a social worker set out to treat?

- A. Anger management
- B. Destructive personality disorder
- C. Impulse control disorder
- D. Lack of self esteem

Answer: C

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Explanation: Phillip suffers from impulse control disorder. This problem is defined as the failure to resist a spontaneous act or behavior that may be detrimental to self or others. The actions are not considered in advance and may include gambling, violence, sexual misconduct, stealing and self-abusive behavior.

Question No: 13

Impulse control disorder is an umbrella term for a set of psychological disorders. Which of the following is not part of this set?

- A. Insomnia
- B. Intermittent explosive disorder
- C. Kleptomania
- D. Pyromania

Answer: A

Explanation: Individuals who suffer from impulse control disorder generally display actions pertaining to stealing, fire starting and violence, but not necessarily insomnia. It is important to distinguish between the diagnosis of impulse control disorder and actions of people with impulse control disorder. The diagnosis itself is a psychiatric issue, while the actions may be considered criminal. Causes of impulse control disorder may be drug abuse and traumatic brain injury, and many people with impulse control disorder have multiple psychiatric diagnoses that will need to be treated simultaneously.

Question No: 14

The nation's leading medical problem is not cancer, lung or heart disease. It has definite causes and affects one in five adult Americans. Research suggests genetic, neurological, biochemical, psychological and environmental origins. What condition is being described?

- A. Hearing loss
- B. Vision loss
- C. Mental illness
- D. Physical disability

Answer: C

Explanation: Over 23 million Americans receive some form of mental health treatment in a year's time.

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The sooner symptoms are recognized the better. Individuals in fear of losing control of their lives require help. Symptoms to look for include: depression, excessive sleeping, deterioration of relationships, unusual behavior, social withdrawal and the inability to express feelings.

Question No: 15

Persistent unhappiness, loss of appetite, changes in sleep patterns, withdrawal and decreased energy are all symptoms of what mental illness?

- A. Chronic fatigue syndrome
- B. Depression
- C. Bi-polar disorder
- D. Alter-ego

Answer: B

Explanation: Depression is a mood disorder in which feelings of sadness, frustration, loss and anger interfere with day-to-day life for an extended period of time. Low self-esteem and anger are common. The degree of depression may be mild, moderate or severe. This determines the amount of treatment required by a professional.

Question No: 16

Depression has been called by different names, such as the blues, sadness, gloom and just being melancholy. Which of the following is a common symptom of depression?

- A. Fatigue
- B. Difficulty with concentration
- C. Irritability
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation: Fatigue, difficulty with concentration, and irritability are all common symptoms of depression. Depression is a mood disorder that affects everyday life for an extended period of time. Other symptoms may include dramatic changes in appetite, trouble sleeping, withdrawal from usual activities and recurring thoughts of suicide.

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Question No: 17

After a social worker has identified the target behavior of a client, it is time to start collaborative problem solving, including examining the problem situation and developing a hypothesis. There are three parts to this particular type of problem solving: identifying the antecedent, identifying the function of the behavior and:

- A. Identifying a positive replacement behavior.
- B. Identifying the people involved in the behavior.
- C. Identifying the reason for the behavior.
- D. Identifying other secondary behaviors.

Answer: A

Explanation: Identifying a positive replacement behavior will be a process of give and take. An example is a child taking a time-out on his/her own when anger issues arise. Giving that person some freedom to think about their behaviors will help decrease the incidents. The social worker should state what the ultimate outcome is and help the client work towards that goal.

Question No: 18

When applying behavior analysis, assessment guides the recognition of target behaviors and the development of an intervention. What are the four methods utilized to obtain a complete understanding of a person's behavior?

- A. Direct observation, focus groups, testing and checklists
- B. Indirect observation, interviews, tests and medical records
- C. Interviews, checklists, problem identifying and observation
- D. Direct observation, interviews, checklists and tests

Answer: D

Explanation: The four major methods of obtaining assessment information are direct observation, interviews, checklists and tests. These methods allow a social worker to identify target behaviors, which must be observable and measurable. Typically there are multiple behaviors identified and the social worker must prioritize for intervention.

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Question No: 19

When multiple behaviors are identified, a social worker must prioritize according to significance. Factors in determining the significance of a problem include the effect of the behavior on a person's environmental access and its social importance and whether intervention is age-appropriate. What is the term for the priority or most significant behavior?

- A. Direct behavior
- B. Target behavior
- C. Interpreted behavior
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation: The most significant behavior is called the target behavior. Behaviors are rated according to key questions dealing with relative danger, long-standing existence, frequency, relevance for skill development, potential for reinforcement, likelihood of success and cost. Determining the significant behavior is a critical step in the assessment process.

Question No: 20

The Madisons are meeting with their social worker, who is helping them with daily functioning. They are called into one room and shown a flow chart describing the processes the family unconsciously follows. There are distinguishing hierarchies and alliances within. What type of therapy is the social worker utilizing?

- A. Relational therapy
- B. Dysfunctional therapy
- C. Interactive therapy
- D. Structural family therapy

Answer: D

Explanation: Structural family therapy places most of the focus on the members' interactions. The family is viewed as a system that functions within a larger classification such as culture or community. Rules of interaction are established, and these form the family's structure. Therapy should always focus on the presenting problem and the process of change.