

Chapter 02: Cultural Assessment

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The nurse is reviewing the development of culture. Which statement is *correct* regarding the development of ones culture? Culture is:

- a. Genetically determined on the basis of racial background.
- b. Learned through language acquisition and socialization.
- c. A nonspecific phenomenon and is adaptive but unnecessary.
- d. Biologically determined on the basis of physical characteristics.

ANS: B

Culture is learned from birth through language acquisition and socialization. It is not biologically or genetically determined and is learned by the individual.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

2. During a class on the aspects of culture, the nurse shares that culture has four basic characteristics. Which statement correctly reflects one of these characteristics?

- a. Cultures are static and unchanging, despite changes around them.
- b. Cultures are never specific, which makes them hard to identify.
- c. Culture is most clearly reflected in a persons language and behavior.
- d. Culture adapts to specific environmental factors and available natural resources.

ANS: D

Culture has four basic characteristics. Culture adapts to specific conditions related to environmental and technical factors and to the availability of natural resources, and it is dynamic and ever changing. Culture is learned from birth through the process of language acquisition and socialization, but it is not most clearly reflected in ones language and behavior.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analyzing (Analysis)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

3. During a seminar on cultural aspects of nursing, the nurse recognizes that the definition stating the specific and distinct knowledge, beliefs, skills, and customs acquired by members of a society reflects which term?

- a. Mores

- b. Norms
- c. Culture
- d. Social learning

ANS: C

The culture that develops in any given society is always specific and distinctive, encompassing all of the knowledge, beliefs, customs, and skills acquired by members of the society. The other terms do not fit the given definition.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Remembering (Knowledge)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

4. When discussing the use of the term *subculture*, the nurse recognizes that it is best described as:

- a. Fitting as many people into the majority culture as possible.
- b. Defining small groups of people who do not want to be identified with the larger culture.
- c. Singling out groups of people who suffer differential and unequal treatment as a result of cultural variations.
- d. Identifying fairly large groups of people with shared characteristics that are not common to all members of a culture.

ANS: D

Within cultures, groups of people share different beliefs, values, and attitudes. Differences occur because of ethnicity, religion, education, occupation, age, and gender. When such groups function within a large culture, they are referred to as *subcultural groups*.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

5. When reviewing the demographics of ethnic groups in the United States, the nurse recalls that the largest and fastest growing population is:

- a. Hispanic.
- b. Black.
- c. Asian.
- d. American Indian.

ANS: A

Hispanics are the largest and fastest growing population in the United States, followed by Asians, Blacks, American Indians and Alaska natives, and other groups.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Remembering (Knowledge)

MSC: Client Needs: General

6. During an assessment, the nurse notices that a patient is handling a small charm that is tied to a leather strip around his neck. Which action by the nurse is appropriate?

- a. Ask the patient about the item and its significance.
- b. Ask the patient to lock the item with other valuables in the hospital's safe.
- c. Tell the patient that a family member should take valuables home.
- d. No action is necessary.

ANS: A

The nurse should inquire about the amulet's meaning. Amulets, such as charms, are often considered an important means of protection from evil spirits by some cultures.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Applying (Application)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

7. The nurse manager is explaining culturally competent care during a staff meeting. Which statement accurately describes the concept of culturally competent care? The caregiver:

- a. Is able to speak the patient's native language.
- b. Possesses some basic knowledge of the patient's cultural background.
- c. Applies the proper background knowledge of a patient's cultural background to provide the best possible health care.
- d. Understands and attends to the total context of the patient's situation.

ANS: D

Culturally competent implies that the caregiver understands and attends to the total context of the individual's situation. This competency includes awareness of immigration status, stress factors, other social factors, and cultural similarities and differences. It does not require the caregiver to speak the patient's native language.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analyzing (Analysis)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

8. The nurse recognizes that an example of a person who is *heritage consistent* would be a:

- a. Woman who has adapted her clothing to the clothing style of her new country.

- b. Woman who follows the traditions that her mother followed regarding meals.
- c. Man who is not sure of his ancestors country of origin.
- d. Child who is not able to speak his parents native language.

ANS: B

Someone who is heritage consistent lives a lifestyle that reflects his or her traditional heritage, not the norms and customs of the new country.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

9. After a class on culture and ethnicity, the new graduate nurse reflects a correct understanding of the concept of ethnicity with which statement?

- a. Ethnicity is dynamic and ever changing.
- b. Ethnicity is the belief in a higher power.
- c. Ethnicity pertains to a social group within the social system that claims shared values and traditions.
- d. Ethnicity is learned from birth through the processes of language acquisition and socialization.

ANS: C

Ethnicity pertains to a social group within the social system that claims to have variable traits, such as a common geographic origin, migratory status, religion, race, language, values, traditions, symbols, or food preferences. *Culture* is dynamic, ever changing, and learned from birth through the processes of language acquisition and socialization. Religion is the belief in a higher power.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Applying (Application)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

10. The nurse is comparing the concepts of religion and spirituality. Which of the following is an appropriate component of ones spirituality?

- a. Belief in and the worship of God or gods
- b. Attendance at a specific church or place of worship
- c. Personal effort made to find purpose and meaning in life
- d. Being closely tied to ones ethnic background

ANS: C

Spirituality refers to each persons unique life experiences and his or her personal effort to find purpose and meaning in life. The other responses apply to religion.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Applying (Application)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

11. A woman who has lived in the United States for a year after moving from Europe has learned to speak English and is almost finished with her college studies. She now dresses like her peers and says that her family in Europe would hardly recognize her. This nurse recognizes that this situation illustrates which concept?

- a. Assimilation
- b. Heritage consistency
- c. Biculturalism
- d. Acculturation

ANS: A

Assimilation is the process by which a person develops a new cultural identity and becomes like members of the dominant culture. This concept does not reflect heritage consistency. Biculturalism is a dual pattern of identification; acculturation is the process of adapting to and acquiring another culture.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

12. The nurse is conducting a heritage assessment. Which question is most appropriate for this assessment?

- a. What is your religion?
- b. Do you mostly participate in the religious traditions of your family?
- c. Do you smoke?
- d. Do you have a history of heart disease?

ANS: B

Asking questions about participation in the religious traditions of family enables the nurse to assess a persons heritage. Simply asking about ones religion, smoking history, or health history does not reflect heritage.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Applying (Application)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

13. In the majority culture of America, coughing, sweating, and diarrhea are symptoms of an illness. For some individuals of Mexican-American origin, however, these symptoms are a normal part of living. The nurse recognizes that this difference is true, probably because Mexican-Americans:

- a. Have less efficient immune systems and are often ill.
- b. Consider these symptoms part of normal living, not symptoms of ill health.
- c. Come from Mexico, and coughing is normal and healthy there.
- d. Are usually in a lower socioeconomic group and are more likely to be sick.

ANS: B

The nurse needs to identify the meaning of health to the patient, remembering that concepts are derived, in part, from the way in which members of the cultural group define health.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

14. The nurse is reviewing theories of illness. The germ theory, which states that microscopic organisms such as bacteria and viruses are responsible for specific disease conditions, is a basic belief of which theory of illness?

- a. Holistic
- b. Biomedical
- c. Naturalistic
- d. Magicoreligious

ANS: B

Among the biomedical explanations for disease is the germ theory, which states that microscopic organisms such as bacteria and viruses are responsible for specific disease conditions. The naturalistic, or holistic, perspective holds that the forces of nature must be kept in natural balance. The magicoreligious perspective holds that supernatural forces dominate and cause illness or health.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

15. An Asian-American woman is experiencing diarrhea, which is believed to be cold or yin. The nurse expects that the woman is likely to try to treat it with:

- a. Foods that are hot or yang.
- b. Readings and Eastern medicine meditations.
- c. High doses of medicines believed to be cold.
- d. No treatment is tried because diarrhea is an expected part of life.

ANS: A

Yin foods are cold and yang foods are hot. Cold foods are eaten with a hot illness, and hot foods are eaten with a cold illness. The other explanations do not reflect the yin/yang theory.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Applying (Application)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

16. Many Asians believe in the yin/yang theory, which is rooted in the ancient Chinese philosophy of Tao. Which statement most accurately reflects health in an Asian with this belief?

- a. A person is able to work and produce.
- b. A person is happy, stable, and feels good.
- c. All aspects of the person are in perfect balance.
- d. A person is able to care for others and function socially.

ANS: C

Many Asians believe in the yin/yang theory, in which health is believed to exist when all aspects of the person are in perfect balance. The other statements do not describe this theory.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analyzing (Analysis)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

17. Illness is considered part of life's rhythmic course and is an outward sign of disharmony within. This statement most accurately reflects the views about illness from which theory?

- a. Naturalistic
- b. Biomedical
- c. Reductionist
- d. Magicoreligious

ANS: A

The naturalistic perspective states that the laws of nature create imbalances, chaos, and disease. From the perspective of the Chinese, for example, illness is not considered an introducing agent; rather, illness is considered a part of life's rhythmic course and an outward sign of disharmony within. The other options are not correct.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

18. An individual who takes the magicoreligious perspective of illness and disease is likely to believe that his or her illness was caused by:

- a. Germs and viruses.
- b. Supernatural forces.
- c. Eating imbalanced foods.
- d. An imbalance within his or her spiritual nature.

ANS: B

The basic premise of the magicoreligious perspective is that the world is seen as an arena in which supernatural forces dominate. The fate of the world and those in it depends on the actions of supernatural forces for good or evil. The other answers do not reflect the magicoreligious perspective.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

19. If an American Indian woman has come to the clinic to seek help with regulating her diabetes, then the nurse can expect that she:

- a. Will comply with the treatment prescribed.
- b. Has obviously given up her belief in naturalistic causes of disease.
- c. May also be seeking the assistance of a shaman or medicine man.
- d. Will need extra help in dealing with her illness and may be experiencing a crisis of faith.

ANS: C

When self-treatment is unsuccessful, the individual may turn to the lay or folk healing systems, to spiritual or religious healing, or to scientific biomedicine. In addition to seeking help from a biomedical or scientific health care provider, patients may also seek help from folk or religious healers.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analyzing (Analysis)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

20. An older Mexican-American woman with traditional beliefs has been admitted to an inpatient care unit. A culturally sensitive nurse would:

- a. Contact the hospital administrator about the best course of action.
- b. Automatically get a curandero for her, because requesting one herself is not culturally appropriate.
- c. Further assess the patient's cultural beliefs and offer the patient assistance in contacting a curandero

or priest if she desires.

- d. Ask the family what they would like to do because Mexican-Americans traditionally give control of decision making to their families.

ANS: C

In addition to seeking help from the biomedical or scientific health care provider, patients may also seek help from folk or religious healers. Some people, such as those of Mexican-American or American-Indian origins, may believe that the cure is incomplete unless the body, mind, and spirit are also healed (although the division of the person into parts is a Western concept).

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analyzing (Analysis)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

21. A 63-year-old Chinese-American man enters the hospital with complaints of chest pain, shortness of breath, and palpitations. Which statement most accurately reflects the nurses best course of action?

- a. The nurse should focus on performing a full cardiac assessment.
- b. The nurse should focus on psychosomatic complaints because the patient has just learned that his wife has cancer.
- c. This patient is not in any danger at present; therefore, the nurse should send him home with instructions to contact his physician.
- d. It is unclear what is happening with this patient; consequently, the nurse should perform an assessment in both the physical and the psychosocial realms.

ANS: D

Wide cultural variations exist in the manner in which certain symptoms and disease conditions are perceived, diagnosed, labeled, and treated. Chinese-Americans sometimes convert mental experiences or states into bodily symptoms (e.g., complaining of cardiac symptoms because the center of emotion in the Chinese culture is the heart).

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analyzing (Analysis)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

22. Symptoms, such as pain, are often influenced by a persons cultural heritage. Which of the following is a *true* statement regarding pain?

- a. Nurses attitudes toward their patients pain are unrelated to their own experiences with pain.
- b. Nurses need to recognize that many cultures practice silent suffering as a response to pain.
- c. A nurses area of clinical practice will most likely determine his or her assessment of a patients pain.
- d. A nurses years of clinical experience and current position are strong indicators of his or her

response to patient pain.

ANS: B

Silent suffering is a potential response to pain in many cultures. The nurses assessment of pain needs to be embedded in a cultural context. The other responses are not correct.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

23. The nurse is reviewing concepts of cultural aspects of pain. Which statement is *true* regarding pain?

- a. All patients will behave the same way when in pain.
- b. Just as patients vary in their perceptions of pain, so will they vary in their expressions of pain.
- c. Cultural norms have very little to do with pain tolerance, because pain tolerance is always biologically determined.
- d. A patients expression of pain is largely dependent on the amount of tissue injury associated with the pain.

ANS: B

In addition to expecting variations in pain perception and tolerance, the nurse should expect variations in the expression of pain. It is well known that individuals turn to their social environment for validation and comparison. The other statements are incorrect.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

MSC: Client Needs: Psychosocial Integrity

24. During a class on religion and spirituality, the nurse is asked to define spirituality. Which answer is correct? Spirituality:

- a. Is a personal search to discover a supreme being.
- b. Is an organized system of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe.
- c. Is a belief that each person exists forever in some form, such as a belief in reincarnation or the afterlife.
- d. Arises out of each persons unique life experience and his or her personal effort to find purpose in life.

ANS: D

Spirituality arises out of each persons unique life experience and his or her personal effort to find purpose and meaning in life. The other definitions reflect the concept of religion.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)