

# LCSW<sup>Q&As</sup>

### ASWB Clinical Level Social Work Licensing Exam

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#### **QUESTION 1**

Nathan is 21 years old and has confided in her clinical social worker about serious behaviors that concern him. He selfreports having hallucinations, paranoia, and disorganized speech. To avoid many of these problems, Nathan has learned to isolate himself from social situations. Additionally, the biopsychosocial history shows a prevalence of mental illness in the family. Since the disorder is mainly affecting cognition, what should the social worker attempt totreat?

- A. Schizophrenia
- B. Dissociative disorder
- C. Bipolar
- D. Alter-ego

Correct Answer: A

Schizophrenia has a typical onset in early adulthood, with cases rarely developing beyond the age of 45. According to the National Institute of Mental Health schizophrenia is a chronic, severe, and disabling brain disorder diagnosed in about 1 percent of the population. People with the disorder may hear voices other people don\\'t hear. They may believe other people are reading their minds, controlling theirthoughts, or plotting to harm them. This can terrify people with the illness and make them withdrawn or extremely agitated. People with schizophrenia may not make sense when they talk. They may sit for hours without moving or talking. Sometimes people with schizophrenia seem perfectly fine until they talk about what they are really thinking.

#### **QUESTION 2**

The purpose of a family is to support each other mentally, physically and emotionally. When these tasks are unfulfilled or only performed with counter-productive methods, what happens to the family dynamics?

- A. Nurturing and love are obsolete
- B. Family dissolves
- C. Mental illness becomes a problem
- D. Family becomes dysfunctional

Correct Answer: D

A dysfunctional family may see the basics of life becoming a reason for violence, addiction and lies. The head of household may turn to alcohol to cope with his hatred of a dull job. Harmful actions are repeated and soon become a regular routine for survival.

#### **QUESTION 3**

Sabrina has managed to alienate all of her co-workers with bizarre behaviors. She is constantly stealing other people\\'s food from the refrigerator in the lunchroom, arguing with fellow employees over unimportant issues and most recently showing up for work intoxicated. Sabrina is quick-tempered and has even thrown a stapler at a coworker\\'s computer.



She has been ordered to seek help for observable problems. A full assessment will more than likely display what findings?

- A. Judgment disorder
- B. Affect regulation disorder
- C. Attention Deficit Disorder
- D. Impulse control disorder

Correct Answer: D

A full assessment for Sabrina will likely have the finding of impulse control disorder. IndMduals with impulse control disorder are unable to manage aggressive desires without immediate action. Other symptoms of this disorder include sexual promiscuity and excessive drug use. This is ego function problem is quite common.

#### **QUESTION 4**

When there is death of a loved one, basic assumptions about relationships and emotions begin to change. This is a disruption of what principle of organization?

- A. Homeostasis
- B. Continuity
- C. Holistic
- D. Endurance
- Correct Answer: A

Homeostasis is the principle where systems attempt to remain constant and consistent. A disruption to the system(s) requires adaption by reorganizing in new ways of thinking or behaving.

#### **QUESTION 5**

An MSW graduate in Social Work can provide treatmentwithout a state license.

A. True

B. False

Correct Answer: B

False. In this case it is about more than just the degree. You must also have experience and supervision for minimum of4000 hours, plus pass the clinical exam.

#### **QUESTION 6**

Dependent personality disorder is often defined as the need to be taken care of by others. IndMduals with this problem



have low levels of confidence in their own intelligence and abilities. How is dependent personality disorder different from avoidant personality disorder?

- A. Dependent personalities are oversensitive to criticism.
- B. Avoidant personalities fear rejection and will withdrawal.
- C. Dependent personalities are passive and nonassertive.
- D. Avoidant personalities are easily influenced and taken advantage of.

#### Correct Answer: B

Both disorders are characterized by a frequent need for assurance, feelings of inadequacy and oversensitMty. IndMduals with avoidant personality disorder have such a fear of rejection that they will withdrawal until acceptance is certain. Dependent personalities will seek out contact with others until they get approval.

#### **QUESTION 7**

A clinical social worker ensures that an assessment plan flows naturally from children and family to service planning. Face-to-face meetings are conducted to assess needs and recognize positive strengths. 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
- D. Functional assessment

Correct Answer: D

A functional assessment is one of the key factors in achieving the well -being, safety and permanence of a child. The family and children 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 8**

Alyson was recently given a promotion at work that has increased the caseload of clients she sees on a daily basis. Long hours have led to conflicts with her family life at home. Alyson feels frustrated and pressured, but needs the extra money. Also, if she asks for a demotion, this would reduce her social status within the employment agency. Alyson is currently dealing with what kind of stress?

- A. Conflict resolution
- B. Developmental
- C. Biopsychosocial
- D. Homeostasis



#### Correct Answer: C

The biopsychosocial model of stress involves events within the environ ment that lead to the recognition of stress. Common stressors in this model fall within four main topics: work, social/family, personal and the environment. Biopsychosocial stress affects self-esteem, social status, and self-worth.

#### **QUESTION 9**

Survivors of a traumatic experience will often revisit the experience mentally, emotionally, and physically. Some indMduals turn to avoidance techniques. They may shut down emotionally or feel unconnected to the world. Asocial worker may work with such a client by using counter-intuitive methods. This means:

A. Using your feelings in working with the client instead of your training.

- B. Relying on the client\\'s intuition about how to proceed.
- C. Utilizing supervision to develop a treatment plan.
- D. Moving into a space where the client may be afraid to go.

Correct Answer: D

Counter-intuitive measures literally mean doing something that does not appearto be logical initially. In the case of trauma, one method of working with clients is to have them CK -visit the tra uma, but process it in ways that are different from the initial reactions, such as the client seeing him or herself as empowered, ratherthan helpless. Because clients are trying to "get awa;/\\' from the trauma, this approach seems counter to what they are hoping to achieve.

#### **QUESTION 10**

Clinical social workers providing treatment to indMduals have the responsibility to allow full participation of the client when determining goals. Expected outcomes and the treatment of termination should be clearly specified and understood by both parties. What is the best way to develop this mutual understanding?

- A. Therapeutic observation
- B. Treatment contracts
- C. Court order
- D. Task-centered education

Correct Answer: B

Treatment contracts help define interventions, length of treatment, goals established and the method of termination. If changes occur along the way, both client and social worker will reestablish the contract. Services that may reach beyond the agreement should be specified.

#### **QUESTION 11**

Clinical social workers often find themselves in dual relationships. The management of transference and counter transference cannot be ignored. Within the realm of child welfare, administrators play a vital role in what areas?



- A. Modeling, coaching and engaging
- B. Knowledge and training
- C. Education and management
- D. All of the above

Correct Answer: A

Dual relationships occur when clients and clinical social workers relate in more than one manner. Administrators have the job of modeling, coaching and engaging within professional discussions. They should assure proper boundaries are being achieved within the practice of professional standards.

#### **QUESTION 12**

A referral is obtained by a clinical social worker in regards to a female infant. The concerns raised by the informant include a lack of nutrition and improper supervision. Neighbors hearthe 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. What type of abuse is suspected?

- A. Family Neglect
- B. Child Neglect
- C. Substance Abuse
- D. Child Endangerment

Correct Answer: B

This is an example of child neglect, rather than child endangerment, which is putting a child in a life-threatening situation.

#### **QUESTION 13**

The principles of human rights are fundamental to all clinical social work practices. The profession is based on beliefs that social workers will respect the worth and dignity of all indMduals. Ethics has an important place in a person\\'s affairs, and the United Nations International Covenant on CMI and Political Rights declares that everyone has the right to:

- A. Self-determination
- B. Freedom of speech
- C. Remain silent
- D. Participation
- Correct Answer: A

All indMduals have the basic right to self-determination. This quality ensures participation in development and control over what happens. Everyone should be viewed as capable of self-determination and its basis for human



commonalities.

#### **QUESTION 14**

Clinical social workers engage in organized action to improve working conditions and services to clients. Injustice related to unemployment, inhumane labor practices and workers\\' rights is challenged. What principle do professionals adhere to in regards to the basic rights of workers?

A. Appropriate labor practices

- B. Non-discriminatory employment
- C. Women\\'s rights
- D. Dignity and rights of workers

Correct Answer: D

The dignity of work and the rights of workers often take a backseat to marketplace profit. IndMduals are not present to serve the economy. The basic rights of workers must be respected in the manner of fair wages, private property, union membership and economic initiative.

#### **QUESTION 15**

Addiction is often described as a behavioral syndrome where drug usage dominates the indMdual\\'s motivation. Normal constraints on a person\\'s behavior lead to a self-perceived "loss of control." One defining characteristic of addiction is:

A. The ability to stop when confronted by legal consequences

B. Identification with otherindMduals with the same symptoms

C. Consumption of the substance in greater amounts and for longer periods than intended

D. Behavioral disruption due to the effects of the substance

Correct Answer: C

A major symptom of addiction is consuming greater quantities over a period of time to get the same effects. It can also be the inability to cut down on use despite the negative consequences of such use, as well as physical effects such as blackouts and memory loss.

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