SUMMIT
STUDY GUIDES

LCSW

ASWB Clinical Practice Exam

Exam 3

122 Questions • Two sections of 61

ASWB Clinical exam format from August 3, 2026 • Original practice questions

Values and Ethics 36% • Assessment and Planning 32% • Intervention and Practice 32%

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How to Use This Material

This practice exam has 122 questions in two sections of 61, like the current ASWB Clinical exam, with questions from all three content areas mixed together. Some questions have three options and some have four. Allow 2 hours per section with an optional break between sections, and choose the single BEST answer for every question. Then check your work against the separate answer key, fill in the score sheet at the end of the key, and read every explanation, including for the questions you got right. Log each miss with its question pattern and distractor family (Chapter 2 of the book).

LCSW Practice Exam 3

122 questions • 2 sections of 61 • Answer key and explanations in the separate Answer Key file
Choose the single BEST answer. Allow 2 hours per section.

Section 1 Questions 1-61

1. Celeste, 30, tells a social worker at a women's center that two days ago her partner choked her until she nearly passed out. She has a hoarse voice and some trouble swallowing but no visible marks, and she says she is 'fine.' What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Complete a full lethality assessment before discussing anything else
- **B.** Urge her to get an emergency medical evaluation today for the strangulation
- **C.** Help her file for a protective order this afternoon
- **D.** Photograph her neck to document the assault for court

2. After telling the school social worker that her uncle touches her private parts when he babysits, Lila, 10, begs the worker not to tell her mother. The worker will make a report. What is the BEST way to respond to Lila?

- **A.** Promise that her mother will not be told about what she said
- **B.** Ask her detailed questions about each incident so the report is complete
- **C.** Make the report without mentioning it to Lila so she does not worry
- **D.** Tell her honestly that she has to tell people whose job is keeping kids safe, and explain simply what happens next

3. A new clinical director at a community agency proposes that clients who report suicidal thoughts sign a written agreement promising not to harm themselves before they leave each session. Which response from the social worker BEST reflects current practice?

- **A.** Suggest replacing the written agreement with a verbal promise noted in the record
- **B.** Recommend a collaborative safety plan that the client helps write and keeps
- **C.** Support the agreement as long as clients sign voluntarily and a copy is placed in the chart

4. Amina, 34, a refugee from South Sudan who resettled three weeks ago with her two children, is referred by the resettlement agency for a mental health assessment because she is not sleeping. She says the family's apartment still has no beds and that she does not want to talk about 'what happened before.' What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Gently gather a full trauma history so the assessment is complete
- **B.** Screen her for PTSD with a standardized symptom checklist
- **C.** Explain how talking about past trauma can help, and invite her to begin when ready
- **D.** Help resolve the need for beds and assess her current sleep and daily functioning

5. Mrs. Sok, 58, who resettled from Cambodia many years ago, describes sudden episodes of dizziness, palpitations, ringing in her ears and neck soreness. She fears that 'wind' is rising in her body and could burst the vessels in her neck and kill her. The episodes often follow worry about her son. Which cultural concept BEST matches her description?

- **A.** Kufungisisa (thinking too much)
- **B.** Khyal cap (wind attack)
- **C.** Dhat syndrome
- **D.** Shenjing shuairuo (weak nerves)

6. State law lets minors aged 12 and older consent to substance use treatment on their own. Under 42 CFR Part 2, a minor who consents to treatment under such a law also controls disclosure. The mother of a 15-year-old calls a federally assisted adolescent outpatient program asking whether her son is enrolled. He has not signed a consent for her. What should the program do?

- **A.** Decline to confirm whether he is a patient
- **B.** Confirm his enrollment but withhold details, since she is his parent
- **C.** Share his attendance and progress, since he is a minor

7. During a routine intake on a hospital medical unit, Mrs. Petrovic, 70, tells the social worker she has no advance directive and wants to make sure her wishes are known if she becomes very ill. She is alert, has capacity, and her condition is stable. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Suggest she wait to complete one until she is home and less stressed
- **B.** Ask her adult children to discuss her wishes with her before she decides
- **C.** Note her interest in the chart so the physician can raise it at discharge
- **D.** Give her information on advance directives and help her complete one now

8. A kindergarten teacher consults the school social worker about Eli, 5, who talks to himself aloud while doing puzzles ('No, the corner goes here... turn it'). His language and social skills are on track. The teacher wonders whether to discourage it. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Suggest a speech-language evaluation, since talking aloud to oneself at this age can signal a language delay
- **B.** Recommend reinforcing quiet work so the self-talk fades and his classmates are not distracted by it
- **C.** Explain that this private speech helps him guide his own problem solving and usually turns inward with age

9. Since a serious car crash four months ago in which her mother was injured, Zoe, 4, has repeatedly crashed toy cars together while making screaming sounds, wakes from frightening dreams several times a week, and throws tantrums when asked to ride in the family car. Her preschool teacher says she startles at sirens, has extreme temper outbursts, and has stopped joining group play. What is the MOST likely diagnosis?

- **A.** Posttraumatic stress disorder
- **B.** Acute stress disorder
- **C.** Adjustment disorder with mixed disturbance of emotions and conduct

10. Mrs. Kowalski's husband drinks heavily and refuses treatment. She tells the social worker she wants a free group where she can get support for herself from others in the same situation. Which group BEST fits her need?

- **A.** Alcoholics Anonymous
- **B.** SMART Recovery
- **C.** Al-Anon

11. Ama, 34, spent her first two years with a caregiver who was often intoxicated and left her alone for long periods; she was later adopted. In therapy she says she expects people to let her down, checks her partner's phone, and cancels sessions when she starts to rely on the social worker. From an Eriksonian view, which unresolved crisis is MOST reflected in these patterns?

- **A.** Trust versus mistrust
- **B.** Autonomy versus shame and doubt
- **C.** Initiative versus guilt
- **D.** Intimacy versus isolation

12. A school social worker is assessing protective factors for Dante, 13, whose father is incarcerated and whose mother works two jobs. Research on resilience in children MOST consistently identifies which factor as protective?

- **A.** Above-average intelligence
- **B.** A stable, caring relationship with at least one adult
- **C.** Participation in a structured after-school sports program
- **D.** Strict household rules and routines

13. A family resource center builds a logic model for its parenting program. Which item belongs in the OUTCOMES column?

- **A.** Twelve parenting workshops held each quarter
- **B.** Parents use fewer harsh discipline practices
- **C.** Two bilingual parent educators and a meeting room
- **D.** Weekly coaching calls with enrolled parents

14. Which activity is part of psychological first aid after a disaster?

- **A.** Beginning trauma-focused exposure in the first week
- **B.** Screening survivors for acute stress disorder to start treatment
- **C.** Offering practical help and connecting survivors with supports
- **D.** Having survivors describe the event in detail to process what happened

15. A lesbian social worker in a mid-sized city plays in a women's softball league. A new client, Dana, 34, is in the same league on another team and chose the worker because she wanted a lesbian-identified therapist. Dana says the league is her main source of support. The worker knows of no other LGBTQ-affirming clinicians in the area with openings. What is the BEST course of action?

- **A.** Continue with Dana and agree together on how they will handle contact at league games
- **B.** Refer Dana to another clinician because their shared community creates a dual relationship
- **C.** Leave the league so that Dana can keep both her therapy and her support system
- **D.** Continue with Dana and avoid speaking about the league in their sessions

16. Which statement BEST reflects the purpose of a spiritual assessment in clinical social work?

- **A.** It determines whether the client's religious beliefs are healthy or unhealthy
- **B.** It applies mainly to clients who belong to a formal religious organization
- **C.** It identifies beliefs, practices and communities that bring the client strength or distress
- **D.** It helps the worker decide whether to share his or her own religious beliefs with the client

17. Jordan, 16, passed his driving test with a high score and can list the dangers of speeding. Two months later he crashed while speeding with three friends in the car; no one was seriously hurt. His parents ask the social worker how to reduce the chance it happens again. Which recommendation BEST fits adolescent brain development?

- **A.** Enroll him in another driver safety course that covers the risks of speeding in detail
- **B.** Limit teen passengers for the next several months and add supervised driving practice
- **C.** Wait it out, since this kind of judgment matures fully once he reaches age 18
- **D.** Show him graphic crash videos, since the crash shows he feels invulnerable behind the wheel

18. Before a newly hired clinician sees clients and bills insurers, an agency checks her license status with the state board, confirms her training, and verifies that she is not excluded from federal health programs. This administrative process is called:

- **A.** Utilization review
- **B.** Accreditation
- **C.** Credentialing

19. Which reason for ending services does the NASW Code of Ethics specifically prohibit?

- **A.** Ending services to pursue a social, financial, or sexual relationship with the client
- **B.** Ending services because the client has not paid fees owed under a clear, signed fee agreement
- **C.** Ending services when the client no longer needs them
- **D.** Ending services because the worker is leaving the agency

20. Since their mother's diagnosis of severe depression two years ago, 12-year-old Rosario has packed her younger brothers' lunches, helped them with homework, and stayed up late to comfort her mother when she cries. Her teacher reports she seems exhausted and has stopped seeing friends. Which family systems concept BEST describes Rosario's role?

- **A.** Enmeshment
- **B.** Identified patient
- **C.** Parentification

21. Which presentation MOST strongly suggests that a medical cause should be ruled out before a psychiatric diagnosis is considered?

- **A.** First-ever visual hallucinations that began suddenly in a 67-year-old
- **B.** Recurring worry about money in a 30-year-old who recently lost a job
- **C.** Low mood for two months in a 25-year-old after a breakup
- **D.** Hearing a deceased spouse's voice in the weeks after the death, at age 70

22. Rashad, 19, has strong grades but tells his social worker that people from his neighborhood 'just aren't college material' and that he would embarrass himself by applying. Which concept BEST describes this belief?

- **A.** Stereotype threat
- **B.** Internalized oppression
- **C.** Institutional oppression
- **D.** Learned helplessness

23. During a couples session, Nadia says to her husband, "You're so selfish. You think about no one but yourself." According to Gottman, this statement is an example of:

- **A.** criticism
- **B.** contempt
- **C.** defensiveness

24. Mr. Fairweather, 86, has advanced dementia and can no longer swallow safely. His advance directive, written years ago while he had capacity, clearly states he does not want a feeding tube, and his daughter, his agent, wants to honor it. His son arrives from out of state and demands a feeding tube, saying, 'You're just letting him starve.' What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Ask the physician to place the tube temporarily while the family works out their disagreement
- **B.** Delay the decision until the son and daughter reach agreement
- **C.** Support honoring the directive and hold a family meeting to address the son's concerns
- **D.** Ask the son to put his objections in writing for the record

25. A client was trapped for several hours in a building collapse. Within what time frame after the trauma can acute stress disorder be diagnosed?

- **A.** From 3 days to 1 month
- **B.** From 1 month to 6 months
- **C.** From the day of the event to 2 weeks

26. Kai, 19, who is nonbinary and uses they/them pronouns, comes to a youth drop-in center. Kai's parents told them to leave after Kai came out, and Kai has slept at the bus station for two nights. The social worker's screening finds no suicidal thoughts or medical needs, and Kai says they want a safe place to stay. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Arrange a bed tonight at an LGBTQ-affirming shelter or host home program
- **B.** Offer to set up a conversation with Kai's parents about whether Kai can return home
- **C.** Schedule weekly counseling to help Kai process the family rejection
- **D.** Refer Kai to a job training program to work toward independent housing

27. A primary care team develops a 3-item depression screen. To test it, staff give the screen and a full structured diagnostic interview to the same patients on the same day and compare the results. What is being established?

- **A.** Test-retest reliability
- **B.** Concurrent validity
- **C.** Predictive validity
- **D.** Content validity

28. Diego, 29, says his boyfriend threatens to tell Diego's employer and family that he is gay if Diego goes out with friends, and checks Diego's phone location throughout the day. There has been no physical violence. How should the social worker understand these behaviors?

- **A.** As relationship insecurity on both sides that couples therapy could help them address
- **B.** As a reaction to Diego's own reluctance to come out to his family
- **C.** As coercive control, a form of intimate partner abuse that calls for safety planning
- **D.** As ordinary conflict, since there has been no physical violence

29. In her ninth telehealth session, Aiyana, 27, says she has decided to stop therapy after today because she "got what she needed." The social worker believes Aiyana would benefit from more work on her panic symptoms. There are no safety concerns. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Agree, and send her a written referral for panic treatment with another provider in her area
- **B.** Ask her to commit to three more sessions so the ending can be done properly
- **C.** Describe the risks of stopping early and recommend she reconsider
- **D.** Ask what led to her decision, then respect it and use the session to review her gains

30. An emergency department social worker is helping discharge Mateo, 15, after an assessment rated his suicide risk as low to moderate and a safety plan was completed with him. His mother will take him home tonight. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Ask Mateo to promise in writing that he will tell his mother whenever he feels unsafe
- **B.** Give his mother a list of outpatient therapists she can call next week
- **C.** Counsel his mother on locking up or removing medications, firearms, and alcohol

31. Marguerite, 39, has had panic attacks and constant anxiety for four months. Over the same period she has been drinking heavily most nights and having morning shakes. She had no anxiety problems before her drinking increased. Which conclusion is BEST supported at this point?

- **A.** She has generalized anxiety disorder that should be treated before her drinking is addressed
- **B.** She has panic disorder and is using alcohol to self-medicate
- **C.** Her anxiety may be alcohol-related; its course during abstinence will clarify the diagnosis
- **D.** Her anxiety is a personality trait that drinking has made more visible

32. A supervisor tells a supervisee that a client's threat to harm his ex-wife needs no further assessment because 'he says that kind of thing all the time.' The client later assaults his ex-wife. Which term BEST describes the supervisor's exposure to a negligence claim?

- **A.** Direct liability, because the harm followed the supervisor's own negligent instruction
- **B.** Vicarious liability, because a supervisor answers for each of a supervisee's independent acts
- **C.** Consultant liability, because the supervisor advised but did not decide
- **D.** Limited liability, because the supervisor had not met the client in person

33. Mrs. Benedetti, 74, has had worsening cognitive problems for a year. Her husband says her alertness varies widely from day to day, she describes seeing small children in the living room in vivid detail, and her walking has become slow and shuffling. Which neurocognitive disorder do these features MOST suggest?

- **A.** Alzheimer's disease with psychotic features
- **B.** Delirium due to a medical condition
- **C.** Neurocognitive disorder with Lewy bodies

34. Under HIPAA, when must a covered provider give a new client its Notice of Privacy Practices?

- **A.** After the first insurance claim is paid
- **B.** When the client asks for a copy
- **C.** By the first service delivery, with a good-faith effort to get written acknowledgment

35. Amira, 30, has seen a social worker for a year for social anxiety. She has made strong gains and is getting married next month. She hands the worker an invitation to the wedding and looks hurt when the worker pauses. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Accept the invitation, since declining now could damage the alliance they have built
- **B.** Explore what having the worker there would mean to her before deciding
- **C.** Decline by explaining that agency policy forbids social contact

36. Nadia, 34, tells her counselor that last weekend her husband slammed her against a wall while their children, 4 and 7, watched and cried. State law defines a child's exposure to domestic violence in the home as neglect that mandated reporters must report. Nadia asks the counselor not to tell anyone. What should the counselor do?

- **A.** Report the husband's assault to the police and not to child protective services
- **B.** Wait to report until Nadia decides whether she will leave the marriage
- **C.** Report to child protective services as state law requires, tell Nadia, and safety plan with her
- **D.** Respect Nadia's wishes, because she is a competent adult who decides whether to involve authorities

37. When Ms. Bright tells her 11-year-old son to turn off his game, his grandmother, who lives with them, says, "Let him be, he's had a hard day," and the boy keeps playing. In session the grandmother and boy sit together and roll their eyes when Ms. Bright speaks. This pattern is BEST described as:

- **A.** a cross-generational coalition
- **B.** emotional cutoff
- **C.** a disengaged boundary between grandmother and grandson
- **D.** multigenerational transmission

38. A social worker in private practice is treating Ava, 10, for anxiety and nighttime fears. Her school counselor made the referral. The social worker would like to speak with Ava's teacher about how Ava handles separations and tests in class. Ava's parents consented to treatment. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Call the teacher, since the school made the referral and already knows Ava is in counseling
- **B.** Ask the parents to relay the questions to the teacher themselves
- **C.** Send the teacher a short summary of Ava's treatment along with a request to call back
- **D.** Obtain written authorization from Ava's parents to contact the teacher

39. An outreach social worker finds Leon, 58, sitting in a bus shelter at 11 p.m. The forecast low is -30 degrees C. Leon is slurring his words, smells strongly of alcohol, cannot say where he will sleep, and refuses to go to the shelter two blocks away. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Respect his refusal and document that he declined shelter
- **B.** Return in two hours to see whether he has changed his mind
- **C.** Call emergency services and stay with Leon until they arrive
- **D.** Give him blankets and hand warmers and check on him again in the morning

40. A hospice social worker supported Mr. Delgado and his family for five months before his death. His wife calls to invite her to the funeral mass. The hospice's bereavement protocol states that staff may attend services when families invite them. The worker felt close to the family and is also seeing two new patients that afternoon. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Decline and send a condolence card to keep the relationship professional
- **B.** Attend the service in her professional role and keep contact brief
- **C.** Attend and offer to keep visiting the widow informally in the months ahead
- **D.** Ask the widow to come to the office instead so they can talk privately

41. At his first meeting of an outpatient substance use group, Jorge listens as a member marks two years without using and describes getting his children back. Afterward Jorge says, "If he could do it, maybe I can." Which therapeutic factor is MOST evident?

- **A.** Universality
- **B.** Imparting information
- **C.** Interpersonal learning
- **D.** Instillation of hope

42. After four months of therapy for work stress, Elliot, 38, tells his social worker that he is attracted to her and suggests they end therapy so they can start dating. The worker has noticed a mutual attraction. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Decline, explain that ending therapy for this reason would still be exploitative, and consult
- **B.** Agree to end therapy and wait an agreed period, such as two years, before any contact
- **C.** Refer Elliot to another therapist and leave the dating question open
- **D.** Continue therapy and set the question aside until treatment is complete

43. State law requires a social worker who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse to report personally and states that telling a supervisor does not satisfy the duty. A child at an after-school program tells Simone, a social worker, that her stepfather burned her arm with a cigarette, and Simone sees a round burn. Her supervisor says, 'I'll take care of the report.' What should Simone do?

- **A.** Let the supervisor make the report and document that she informed him
- **B.** Ask the supervisor for a copy of his report to confirm it was filed
- **C.** Gather more details from the child so the supervisor's report is complete
- **D.** Make the report herself and let her supervisor know she has done so

44. Marguerite, 47, tells her social worker she plans to stop smoking cannabis daily on the first of next month and asks, "What should I do to get ready?" She has already cut back on weekdays. Which response BEST matches her stage of change?

- **A.** Explore the pros and cons of using cannabis to help resolve her mixed feelings
- **B.** Give her information on the health effects of daily cannabis use
- **C.** Begin maintenance planning for how she will stay abstinent over the next year
- **D.** Help her build a specific plan for triggers, supports, and evening activities

45. During a primary care visit, Gordon, 61, who smokes a pack a day, tells the social worker, "My father smoked till he was 90. I don't see what the fuss is about, and I'm not interested in quitting." Which stage of change BEST describes Gordon?

- **A.** Contemplation
- **B.** Preparation
- **C.** Precontemplation
- **D.** Relapse

46. A client calls the clinic director to complain that her therapist, Mark, was dismissive and ended sessions early three times. The clinic has a written grievance policy. What should the director do FIRST?

- **A.** Reassign the client to a new therapist that same day
- **B.** Tell the client that Mark is highly regarded and ask her to give him another chance first
- **C.** Explain the grievance process to the client and begin the review the policy describes
- **D.** Ask Mark to call the client to resolve the conflict with her directly

47. Corey, 26, is in county jail awaiting trial. The day after learning his trial date, he tells the jail social worker he hears voices commanding him to hurt himself and asks to move to the hospital unit, where he says he can "wait this out." A suicide risk assessment has been completed per protocol. His descriptions of the voices change each time he is asked, he shows no disorganization, and officers say he chats normally with other inmates when unaware he is observed. Which DSM-5-TR classification BEST fits his presentation?

- **A.** Factitious disorder imposed on self
- **B.** Malingering
- **C.** Brief psychotic disorder

48. At a Head Start parent meeting, the father of Kai, 2, worries that Kai plays beside other children with his own trucks but rarely plays with them. Kai shares toys when prompted, notices when another child cries, and points to body parts when asked. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Advise arranging frequent playdates where adults direct the children to play with each other
- **B.** Suggest a social skills group so that Kai can learn to play cooperatively with other children
- **C.** Explain that playing beside peers is expected at this age and cooperative play comes later
- **D.** Request a developmental evaluation, because he does not yet join other children in their play

49. Bethany, 13, refused to go to school one morning because of a pimple on her chin, crying that 'everyone will stare and talk about it all day.' Her mother says Bethany has many friends, attends parties and team practices, and went to school the next day. She has no history of anxiety. Which explanation is MOST likely?

- **A.** Social anxiety disorder, with fear of scrutiny by peers
- **B.** Personal fable, a common feature of early adolescent thinking
- **C.** Imaginary audience, a common feature of early adolescent thinking
- **D.** Body dysmorphic disorder, with focus on a perceived flaw in appearance

50. Haruto, 36, describes years of problems with his job and marriage but cannot say what he wants to be different: "I just know it's all wrong." The social worker uses a solution-focused approach and wants to help him build a concrete picture of his goals. Which technique is BEST?

- **A.** A scaling question
- **B.** A coping question
- **C.** The miracle question

51. Mr. Brandt, 74, lives alone and has full decision-making capacity. His social worker believes a senior day program would ease his loneliness, but he declines, saying he likes his routine and his garden. Nothing in his situation threatens his life or health. Using the Ethical Principles Screen, which conclusion is BEST supported?

- **A.** Quality of life takes priority, because the program would improve his well-being
- **B.** His autonomy takes priority, because autonomy and freedom ranks above quality of life
- **C.** Least harm decides the matter, because it ranks directly below protection of life in the screen

52. In an agency parenting group, two members describe their approaches to discipline as 'what good parents do.' Several members who immigrated from Central America and West Africa have grown quieter over the past two sessions. What is the BEST action for the facilitator?

- **A.** Name that parenting norms vary and invite members to share their own families' approaches
- **B.** Ask the two members privately to take up less time in discussion
- **C.** Divide the group by cultural background for the next several sessions
- **D.** Present the group curriculum's approach to discipline as the standard all members should follow

53. Tamika, 29, says her son's school is not providing the speech therapy listed in his IEP. She asks the family services social worker to come to the next IEP meeting and "do the talking," because she gets nervous, but says she wants to handle these meetings herself in the future. The meeting is three weeks away. What is the BEST approach?

- **A.** Attend the meeting and present the concerns on Tamika's behalf, as she has requested
- **B.** File a complaint with the school district about the missed services
- **C.** Refer Tamika to a special education attorney to enforce the IEP
- **D.** Help Tamika prepare and practice her points, and attend as support while she leads

54. The principle of the least restrictive alternative directs social workers to do which of the following?

- **A.** Choose the least costly service available in the client's community
- **B.** Choose the option that meets the client's needs while limiting freedom as little as possible
- **C.** Choose the intervention that the client finds least demanding
- **D.** Choose voluntary services first, before assessing what level of risk the client currently presents

55. Over six months, three of eight therapists at a community clinic have resigned, and the remaining staff report exhaustion and rising sick days. Caseloads average 90 clients, well above comparable programs. Which response by the director is BEST?

- **A.** Review caseload sizes and workload distribution with staff and set achievable limits
- **B.** Offer a monthly self-care workshop and mindfulness app subscriptions to staff
- **C.** Hire a recruiter to fill the vacant positions as quickly as possible
- **D.** Ask supervisors to identify the struggling therapists and refer them to counseling services

56. A social worker joins a coalition pushing the state to change a Medicaid rule that denies home care to many disabled adults on her caseload and across the state. This activity is BEST described as:

- **A.** case advocacy
- **B.** brokering
- **C.** mediation
- **D.** cause advocacy

57. Mr. Ansah, 37, was brought to a psychiatric emergency unit and placed on a 72-hour involuntary hold after threatening to jump from a bridge. He is now calm and asks the social worker, 'What is happening to me? Can they just keep me here?' What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Explain the hold, his legal rights under it, and how he can contest it
- **B.** Ask him to describe what led him to the bridge
- **C.** Tell him the psychiatrist will explain everything about the hold at morning rounds
- **D.** Reassure him that the hold will end once he feels better

58. In a substance use treatment group, several members begin blaming Arturo for the group's "bad energy" after he reports a lapse, and one says the group would be better without him. Arturo looks down and says nothing. What is the leader's BEST response?

- **A.** Ask Arturo to explain his lapse so the group can understand what went wrong
- **B.** Move the group to the planned relapse prevention topic to reduce the tension
- **C.** Meet with Arturo after the session to decide whether he should leave the group
- **D.** Block the attacks, and ask the group what is happening as they focus on Arturo

59. In motivational interviewing, a social worker draws out the client's own reasons and ideas for change instead of supplying them. In Miller and Rollnick's third-edition description of the spirit of MI, which element does this describe?

- **A.** Evocation
- **B.** Acceptance
- **C.** Compassion
- **D.** Partnership

60. Which feature MOST clearly distinguishes delirium from early major neurocognitive disorder?

- **A.** Memory loss that interferes with paying bills and managing medications
- **B.** Difficulty finding words and naming familiar objects in conversation
- **C.** Gradual changes in personality and social behavior over the past year
- **D.** Disturbed attention and awareness developing over hours to days

61. Corporal Ruiz, 24, scores 48 on the PCL-5 at a military family support clinic, two months after an IED blast injured members of her unit. She asks whether the score means she has PTSD. Which response is MOST accurate?

A. "Yes. Any score above the cutoff of 33 confirms a diagnosis of PTSD for you."

B. "Not yet. PTSD can't be considered until at least six months have passed since the event."

C. "No. The PCL-5 measures general distress, not trauma-related symptoms."

D. "Your score suggests significant PTSD symptoms; a clinical interview is the next step."

Section 2 Questions 62-122

62. A supervisor at a family counseling agency asks her supervisee, Ahmed, to audio-record a session with a couple so they can review his interventions together. The couple has not been asked about recording. What should Ahmed do FIRST?

- **A.** Get both partners' written consent, explaining who will hear it and how it is stored
- **B.** Record the session and delete the file after supervision so privacy is protected
- **C.** Tell the couple he is recording for training purposes once the session has gotten started

63. Mr. Delacroix, 58, who has type 1 diabetes, arrives at a community agency for a housing appointment. Within minutes he becomes irritable, sweaty, and confused, slurs his words, and snaps at the worker. He mentions that he skipped lunch. He has no history of aggression. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Call for emergency medical help
- **B.** Ask security to stand nearby while the meeting continues
- **C.** Use verbal de-escalation and reschedule the appointment once he is calm
- **D.** Ask whether he has been drinking alcohol today

64. Three siblings grew up in the same home with a parent who had severe alcohol use disorder. As adults, one is a nurse with no mental health concerns, one has major depressive disorder, and one has alcohol use disorder. Which concept does this BEST illustrate?

- **A.** Equifinality
- **B.** Differentiation
- **C.** Multifinality

65. A high school social worker completes a risk assessment with Andre, 15, who has thoughts of suicide and a plan to overdose on his mother's pills. District policy and state law require notifying a parent the same day when a student is at risk of suicide, unless notifying would endanger the student. Andre begs her not to tell his parents, saying they will be angry, but reports no abuse. What should the worker do?

- **A.** Delay notifying his parents until he feels ready
- **B.** Tell Andre his parents must be told, involve him in how, and call them today
- **C.** Report to child protective services in place of calling his parents about the risk
- **D.** Honor his request and develop a safety plan with Andre alone

66. Teodor, 40, who has schizophrenia and has stopped his medication, tells his ACT team social worker that his upstairs neighbor, whom he names, is poisoning his water and that he will 'stop her tonight' with the hunting knife he keeps by his door. State law requires a clinician to take protective action when a client communicates a serious threat of physical violence against an identifiable victim. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Act on the duty to protect and seek emergency evaluation
- **B.** Explore how long he has held the belief to judge how fixed it is
- **C.** Ask the team psychiatrist to restart his antipsychotic at the next scheduled visit
- **D.** Ask him to hand over the knife before the social worker leaves

67. A residential treatment counselor tells the social worker that Joaquin, 17, who has been withdrawn and tearful for weeks, has seemed 'suddenly at peace' for two days and has given his headphones and sneakers to roommates. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Ask the counselor to keep watching him and report any further changes
- **B.** Recognize his progress by praising the improvement at the next team meeting
- **C.** Meet with Joaquin today and ask him directly about suicidal thoughts and plans

68. A hospice social worker visits Ms. Pereira, 88, a resident of a skilled nursing facility. She has mild dementia but gives a clear, consistent account that a night aide slapped her face when she called for help. State law requires mandated reporters to report suspected abuse of long-term care residents to the state's designated agency within 24 hours. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Report to the designated state agency within the required time
- **B.** Tell the facility's director of nursing and let the facility investigate
- **C.** Wait to see whether Ms. Pereira repeats the account on the next visit
- **D.** Ask the night shift supervisor which aide was on duty

69. On an ecomap drawn with a client, the line between the family circle and the child welfare agency has hatch marks across it. What does this convention usually indicate?

- **A.** A strong, supportive connection
- **B.** A stressful or conflicted connection
- **C.** A weak or tenuous connection
- **D.** A connection that has ended

70. In a co-ed anxiety group, Bernadette talks at length in each session. For three weeks the leader has thanked her and redirected to others, but the pattern continues, and members now sigh and look at the leader when she begins. What should the leader do NEXT?

- **A.** Open the pattern for group discussion, guiding members to give Bernadette feedback
- **B.** Set a two-minute time limit for each member's turn starting in the next session
- **C.** Ask Bernadette to leave the group and offer her individual therapy in its place
- **D.** Keep redirecting her as before, since monopolizing tends to fade as anxiety lessens

71. Which practice BEST reflects informed consent as an ongoing process rather than a single event?

- **A.** Having the client sign a detailed form at the first appointment
- **B.** Storing the signed consent form securely in the client's record
- **C.** Revisiting consent when goals, methods, or risks of services change
- **D.** Reviewing consent forms each year with the agency's compliance officer

72. Paulo, 40, wants help cutting back on online sports betting and is ready to start at his first session. His banking app shows each betting transaction for the past two months. His social worker wants to evaluate her work without delaying treatment. What is the BEST way to establish a baseline?

- **A.** Postpone treatment for two weeks to gather new baseline data
- **B.** Use the existing transaction records as a reconstructed baseline
- **C.** Skip the baseline and rely on Paulo's report at termination

73. At an oncology team meeting, a nurse describes Ms. Pruitt, 58, as 'noncompliant' because she has missed two chemotherapy appointments. The social worker met with Ms. Pruitt yesterday and learned that her ride stopped being available and she is the daytime caregiver for her 3-year-old grandson. Which action is BEST?

A. Document the barriers in her chart so team members can review them before her next visit
B. Raise the ride and caregiving barriers at the meeting and propose solutions
C. Encourage Ms. Pruitt to treat her appointments as her top priority
D. Refer Ms. Pruitt to a counselor to address avoidance of treatment

74. Leon and Camille begin couples counseling with a social worker in private practice. At the end of the first session, Leon asks whether he can call the worker privately between sessions to vent. No policy about individual contacts has been discussed. What should the worker do?

A. Agree, and keep anything Leon shares privately from Camille
B. With both partners present, explain the policy on information shared in private contacts
C. Agree, and decide what to share if a secret comes up
D. Ask Leon to sign a release allowing her to tell Camille anything he says in private calls

75. Ari, 33, has hidden that he is Jewish at his new job since hearing coworkers make antisemitic jokes. He says constantly watching what he says is wearing him down, and he asks the social worker whether he should just tell people. What is the BEST response?

A. Encourage disclosure, since concealment is a well-documented source of minority stress
B. Advise him to keep his identity private until he has more job security
C. Help him weigh the strain of hiding against the risks of disclosure so he can decide

76. Tamsin, 27, has borderline personality disorder and has described passive suicidal thoughts most weeks for years; she and her social worker have a long-standing plan for these. Today she says that since her mother's death last week she has been thinking about a specific bridge and has driven there twice 'just to look.' What should the social worker do NEXT?

A. Treat this as a change from her baseline and assess intent, timing, and access in detail
B. Validate her grief and spend the session practicing distress tolerance skills
C. Add a session later this week to focus on her mother's death
D. Use the established plan, since chronic suicidal thoughts are a familiar part of her presentation

77. A supervisor at a county mental health agency needs weekend childcare. Her supervisee, a 24-year-old new MSW, mentions that she used to work as a nanny and could use extra income. The supervisor will complete the supervisee's six-month performance review next month. What should the supervisor do?

A. Hire the supervisee after the performance review is completed
B. Decline to hire the supervisee and keep the relationship professional
C. Hire the supervisee and ask a peer to complete this performance review
D. Hire the supervisee if both sign an agreement keeping the roles separate

78. Corinne, 31, fears looking foolish in public. Her social worker asks her to call out each stop aloud on a city bus, a harmless but odd act, and then notice that others' stares are uncomfortable but bearable and do not change her worth. Which technique is this?

A. Shame-attacking exercise
B. Paradoxical intention
C. Flooding
D. Behavioral experiment

79. A residential program hires a psychiatrist as a monthly consultant. She recommends that the program stop admitting youth with recent fire-setting. The program director must decide whether to change the admission policy. What is the psychiatrist's role in this decision?

- **A.** She decides, because the program hired her specifically for her clinical expertise
- **B.** She shares authority with the director over admission policy
- **C.** She advises, and the director decides whether to adopt the recommendation

80. According to the NASW Code of Ethics, what should a social worker who is leaving an employment setting tell clients?

- **A.** That their case will be reassigned and the agency will contact them with details
- **B.** That they may follow the worker to her new position if they prefer her approach
- **C.** The options for continuing services and the benefits and risks of each

81. In a first session at a primary care clinic, Bill, 61, says, "I'm not quitting drinking. Everyone in my family drinks, and they're all fine." The social worker is using motivational interviewing and has just begun building rapport. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** "Your recent liver tests suggest drinking may already be affecting your health."
- **B.** "Drinking is part of family time, and it doesn't feel like a problem to you."
- **C.** "It sounds like your family may be drinking more than is safe, too."
- **D.** "I can share how family history affects the risk of alcohol problems, which may surprise you."

82. Which factor is among the strongest predictors of eventual death by suicide?

- **A.** A prior suicide attempt
- **B.** Frequent passive thoughts of death
- **C.** A diagnosis of generalized anxiety disorder

83. Ashley, 24, is 14 weeks pregnant and has used oxycodone daily for a year. She tells a prenatal clinic social worker she wants to quit 'right now, on my own' so the baby will not be affected. Today is her first prenatal visit. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Praise her motivation and help her plan to stop on her own this week
- **B.** Support her goal and refer her today for MOUD evaluation
- **C.** Refer her to a residential program for supervised withdrawal before her pregnancy goes any further
- **D.** Suggest she cut her dose in half each week until she reaches zero

84. During an employee assistance session, Russell, 45, a corrections officer, says he disagrees with a new visitation rule but will enforce it strictly: 'If everyone picks which rules to follow, the whole system falls apart. My duty is to uphold the rules.' Which Kohlberg stage BEST matches his reasoning?

- **A.** Social contract orientation
- **B.** Good interpersonal relationships
- **C.** Universal ethical principles
- **D.** Law and order orientation

85. When Gail tells her partner, Robin, that she felt embarrassed when he forgot to pick her up from work, Robin replies, "Well, you didn't remind me, and you know how busy I've been." The social worker uses the Gottman method. Which response from Robin would BEST model the antidote to this pattern?

- **A.** "Let's not talk about this right now. I need some air before we keep going."
- **B.** "I hear that you think I forgot on purpose to embarrass you."
- **C.** "I appreciate how patient you usually are with my schedule."
- **D.** "You're right that I forgot, and I'm sorry you were stuck waiting."

86. A hospital emergency department adopts the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS). What does this instrument PRIMARILY measure?

- **A.** Lifetime exposure to traumatic and adverse events
- **B.** Severity of suicidal ideation and types of suicidal behavior
- **C.** Severity of depressive symptoms, including thoughts of death, over the past two weeks

87. At an 18-month well-child visit, Noah's parents complete the M-CHAT-R/F, and his score falls in the high-risk range. They ask the clinic social worker whether this means Noah has autism. Which response is MOST accurate?

- **A.** "Yes. A high-risk score on the M-CHAT confirms autism spectrum disorder."
- **B.** "No. Screening this early is unreliable, so you can wait and rescreen at age 3."
- **C.** "Not necessarily. It means he should be referred for a full evaluation now."

88. Which situation is the clearest example of transference?

- **A.** A client and worker disagree about how often they should meet
- **B.** A worker finds herself drifting off and losing focus whenever a client speaks in a slow, flat monotone
- **C.** A client seeks the worker's approval as she did a critical parent's, though the worker is not critical
- **D.** A client is angry because the agency lost her housing paperwork twice

89. A social worker is updating an agency glossary for staff training. Which term describes a person whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth?

- **A.** Cisgender
- **B.** Heterosexual
- **C.** Gender-conforming
- **D.** Binary

90. Marcus, the real estate agent handling the sale of a social worker's house, calls her private practice asking to begin therapy for depression. The sale will not close for at least two months. Several other therapists in the city accept his insurance. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Schedule an intake and revisit the issue once the sale has closed
- **B.** Schedule an intake and switch to a different real estate agent
- **C.** Ask Marcus whether he is comfortable with the overlap before deciding how to proceed
- **D.** Explain the conflict and refer him to other therapists who take his insurance

91. In this state, social workers are permitted, but not required, to report suspected abuse of adults 65 and older. Mrs. Lindgren, 77, cognitively intact, tells her counselor that her adult son grabbed her arm hard during an argument last week, leaving a bruise. She asks the counselor not to report it, has already changed her locks, and is staying with a friend while she decides what to do. What should the counselor do?

- **A.** Call her son to discuss the incident and set expectations for his behavior
- **B.** Report to adult protective services, since the bruise shows she is being abused
- **C.** Respect her request, build a safety plan with her, and give her information about adult protective services

92. A hospice social worker visits Mrs. Bell, 84, who is alert but expected to die within days. Mrs. Bell takes the worker's hand and asks, 'Will you pray with me?' The worker does not share Mrs. Bell's faith. The team chaplain can visit tomorrow. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Ask what prayer means to her right now before deciding how to respond
- **B.** Explain that the chaplain is the right person for this and arrange a visit for tomorrow
- **C.** Sit with her and invite her to pray in her own words, then offer to call the chaplain
- **D.** Lead a prayer from Mrs. Bell's tradition that the worker has heard before

93. Noor, a school social worker, consistently sides with a 15-year-old client in disputes with his parents, described the parents as 'controlling' after one meeting, and has stopped returning their calls. In supervision, she mentions that her own parents were very strict. What should the supervisor help Noor examine?

- **A.** Countertransference in the form of overidentification with the client
- **B.** Transference by the client onto Noor
- **C.** Parallel process carried over from the school's conflict with the family

94. In the fourth couples session, Aliyah turns to the social worker after her husband explains why he missed their anniversary dinner and says, "You're a professional. Don't you agree that's unreasonable?" Her husband looks away. The social worker uses a Bowen framework. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Agree that missing the dinner was hurtful and ask the husband to take responsibility for it
- **B.** Stay neutral and ask Aliyah what she hoped the dinner would mean to her
- **C.** Say that the social worker's job is not to judge and move on to the next agenda item
- **D.** Ask the husband to explain to Aliyah why he looked away when she asked for an opinion

95. In the Strange Situation, Sofia, 12 months, explores the toys while her mother is present, cries when her mother leaves, and on her return reaches to be picked up, calms within a minute, and goes back to playing. Which attachment classification fits?

- **A.** Secure
- **B.** Insecure-avoidant
- **C.** Disorganized
- **D.** Insecure-resistant (ambivalent)

96. Which statement BEST describes Carol Gilligan's critique of Kohlberg's theory of moral development?

- **A.** It focused on emotions in moral choices and neglected the role of logical reasoning
- **B.** It was built largely on male samples and ranked care-based reasoning as less mature
- **C.** It overemphasized cultural differences and neglected stages that all people pass through

97. Before meeting Mr. Haile, 63, a new client who emigrated from Eritrea, a social worker at a primary care clinic reads several articles about Eritrean family roles and help-seeking norms. In the first session, Mr. Haile says he came because he has not been sleeping since he retired. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Explain that the articles suggest his family may be a strong source of support
- **B.** Ask whether elders in his community usually seek counseling for sleep problems
- **C.** Ask Mr. Haile how he understands his sleep problem and what he hopes will help
- **D.** Refer him to a community organization that serves Eritrean immigrants

98. A health care agent decides about a patient's treatment by asking what the patient would have chosen, based on the patient's known values and past statements. This is BEST described as the:

- **A.** Reasonable person standard
- **B.** Least restrictive alternative standard
- **C.** Substituted judgment standard
- **D.** Best interests standard

99. Marcus, 12, has started getting into fights at school since his parents' arguments at home became daily. In the family session, both parents talk to the social worker mainly about Marcus. A Bowen-trained social worker would MOST likely:

- **A.** set up a school behavior plan with rewards for each fight-free week
- **B.** work with the parents as a couple on their own conflict
- **C.** see Marcus individually to help him cope with his feelings about the arguments
- **D.** ask Marcus to sculpt the family to show where he stands between his parents

100. In social work practice, 'starting where the client is' MOST closely means:

- **A.** Beginning with the client's own view of the problem and priorities
- **B.** Beginning with the problem the referral source identified
- **C.** Beginning with the issue the worker's assessment shows is most serious

101. Latoya, 31, works part time and receives SNAP benefits for herself and her two children. She tells her social worker that by the last week of each month they run out of food and she skips meals so the children can eat. The worker's first thought is that Latoya needs help budgeting. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Check for missed benefits, such as WIC or school meals, and link her to food resources
- **B.** Teach Latoya to plan a monthly meal budget designed to stretch her SNAP benefits further
- **C.** Explore whether stress is affecting her eating and appetite

102. As his wife raises her voice about money, Kenji goes silent, stares at the floor, and says his heart is pounding. He stops responding to her questions. Using the Gottman method, what should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Call a break of at least 20 minutes for self-soothing, with a plan to return to the topic
- **B.** Encourage Kenji to tell his wife what he is feeling right now so she understands his silence
- **C.** Point out that withdrawing is one of the Four Horsemen and ask him to stay engaged
- **D.** Ask his wife to soften her tone and restate her concern as a gentle start-up

103. A school social worker helps a third-grade teacher with a student who shouts out answers. The teacher stops responding to the shouted answers and calls on the student and praises him each time he raises his hand. Which technique is this?

- **A.** Response cost
- **B.** Extinction of the shouting with no other change
- **C.** Differential reinforcement of an alternative behavior
- **D.** Time-out from positive reinforcement after each shout

104. A hospital social worker arranges discharge placements for older adults. Her husband recently bought one of the three assisted living facilities in the area. A patient, Mrs. Ito, 81, needs assisted living. What is the BEST course of action?

- **A.** Disclose the conflict and have a colleague handle the placement
- **B.** Present all three facilities and let Mrs. Ito choose freely
- **C.** Leave her husband's facility off the list Mrs. Ito receives

105. Eli, 8, is referred by his pediatrician. His parents and teacher both report that for the past year he loses assignments, cannot finish tasks, and is easily sidetracked, and that he blurts out answers, leaves his seat, and climbs on furniture. Rating scales from home and school each show seven inattentive and six hyperactive-impulsive symptoms. His hearing and vision were recently checked and are normal. What is the MOST likely diagnosis?

A. ADHD, predominantly hyperactive/impulsive presentation
B. ADHD, predominantly inattentive presentation
C. Oppositional defiant disorder
D. ADHD, combined presentation

106. The parents of Tariq, 9, report daily defiance, arguing, and refusal to follow rules at home for over a year, and his teacher reports similar problems. A pediatric evaluation found no medical concerns, and he meets criteria for oppositional defiant disorder. Both parents want to help. Which approach is BEST?

A. Individual cognitive therapy for Tariq
B. Parent-child interaction therapy
C. Child-centered play therapy
D. Parent management training

107. Lance, 28, is brought to a crisis center after a week of smoking methamphetamine almost continuously. He believes police have planted cameras in his car and hears footsteps following him. He has no prior psychiatric history. Two days into his stay, after sleeping and eating, his paranoia is fading. What is the MOST likely diagnosis?

A. Schizophreniform disorder
B. Delusional disorder, persecutory type
C. Substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder
D. Brief psychotic disorder

108. An agency has trained its therapists in a manualized treatment for adolescent depression. Three months later, outcome scores have not improved. Chart reviews show many therapists have dropped key sessions and added unrelated techniques, and supervisors have no structured way to review the model. What should the clinical director do NEXT?

A. Replace the treatment with a different model, since this one has not worked
B. Repeat the same introductory workshop for the therapists who drifted
C. Let therapists adapt the treatment freely to fit their own styles
D. Add fidelity monitoring and model-specific supervision

109. Lucia, 26, in a DBT skills group, needs to ask her landlord to fix a broken heater. In the past she either says nothing or shouts at him and gets nowhere. Which skill is BEST suited to this situation?

A. Wise mind
B. Opposite action
C. DEAR MAN
D. Radical acceptance

110. Andre, 40, was court-ordered to complete 16 counseling sessions, and the court required monthly progress reports. He finished all 16 last week, and the court has closed its oversight. Andre says, 'I didn't want to come at first, but I'd like to keep working on things with my son.' What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Let the probation office know that Andre has chosen to keep attending
- **B.** Refer Andre to another provider so voluntary work is separate from the court case
- **C.** Review a new treatment agreement covering goals, fees, and what will be shared
- **D.** Continue the current plan and keep sending monthly progress reports

111. Kristen, 21, lives with her parents, works part-time at a coffee shop, and changes plans often. When the social worker asks about her goals, values, or future, she shrugs and says, 'I don't really think about it. Whatever happens, happens.' She has not tried out any particular path. In Marcia's model, which identity status BEST fits?

- **A.** Moratorium
- **B.** Foreclosure
- **C.** Identity achievement
- **D.** Identity diffusion

112. According to DSM-5-TR, which factor MOST distinguishes a culturally sanctioned belief from a delusion?

- **A.** Whether the belief involves supernatural forces, spirits or divine messages
- **B.** Whether other members of the person's cultural group share the belief
- **C.** Whether the person holds the belief with strong conviction

113. Kurt, 40, arrives at an outpatient substance use program to sign a release so the program can send updates to his employer. He smells of alcohol, is unsteady on his feet, and repeats the same question several times. He says he is fine to sign. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Have Kurt sign now and go over the release with him again at his next visit
- **B.** Wait to complete the release until Kurt is sober and can understand it
- **C.** Have Kurt sign now, since he says he is fine and wants to sign

114. Rosa, 17, was legally emancipated by a court last year and is in counseling at a community agency. Her father calls asking about her treatment. Which statement is accurate?

- **A.** Her father may receive information, since she is under 18
- **B.** Her father may receive information if he pays for her treatment
- **C.** Rosa controls her own confidentiality and records, as an adult client would

115. Six months ago, Nia, 9, choked on a piece of chicken at a family barbecue. Since then she eats only soups, yogurt, and smoothies, has lost weight, and her pediatrician is concerned about her nutrition. She says she wants to eat normally and likes how she looks, but she panics when she sees solid food. What is the MOST likely diagnosis?

- **A.** Anorexia nervosa, restricting type
- **B.** Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder
- **C.** Specific phobia, other type (fear of choking)
- **D.** Posttraumatic stress disorder

116. Leon, 45, is on an inpatient unit in an acute psychotic episode. A neighbor brings in a notice from his landlord saying his rent must be paid in seven days or an eviction will be filed. Leon is disorganized and cannot follow a phone conversation, but he signs a release so the social worker can contact the landlord. Which action is BEST?

- **A.** Wait until Leon is stable enough to handle the matter himself
- **B.** Coach Leon on what to say so that he can make the call to his landlord himself
- **C.** Refer Leon to legal aid to respond to the notice
- **D.** Call the landlord for Leon to explain his hospitalization and seek more time

117. The Mbeki parents and their 16-year-old disagree about how bad things are at home. The social worker uses a solution-focused approach and wants each member to rate where the family is now and to name a small, concrete next step. Which question BEST fits?

- **A.** "Looking back, what does each of you think caused things to get this bad between you this year?"
- **B.** "On a scale of 0 to 10, where is the family today, and what would one point higher look like?"
- **C.** "Who in the family worries most about the arguing, and who worries least?"
- **D.** "If the arguing were a character, what would you name it?"

118. Staff Sergeant Lewis returned from a nine-month deployment three months ago. He and his wife, Danielle, seek couples counseling because they argue over finances and the children's discipline, which Danielle handled alone while he was away. Lewis denies nightmares or hypervigilance, and Danielle says he is "the same person, just out of step with us." What is the BEST focus for the social worker?

- **A.** Assess Lewis for PTSD, which is the most likely underlying source of the couple's conflict
- **B.** Help the couple renegotiate household roles, recognizing how each changed during deployment
- **C.** Support Danielle in keeping the roles she managed successfully during the deployment
- **D.** Recommend individual counseling for each partner before beginning couples work

119. A client reports that last month she stood at the railing of a bridge ready to jump, then stepped back on her own and walked home. On the C-SSRS, this is BEST classified as:

- **A.** An actual attempt with low lethality
- **B.** An interrupted attempt, since she did not complete it
- **C.** Preparatory behavior short of an attempt
- **D.** A self-interrupted (aborted) attempt

120. A statewide study of 6,000 clients finds that a new intake protocol lowers average scores on a 60-point depression scale by 1.5 points compared with usual intake ($p < .001$). The agency director asks whether to adopt it to improve client outcomes. What is the BEST interpretation?

- **A.** The protocol should be adopted because the p value is very small
- **B.** The finding is likely due to chance given the small size of the change
- **C.** The effect is real statistically but too small to matter clinically
- **D.** The large sample makes the protocol's effect clinically meaningful

121. Dana, 46, recently retired from the military and says she feels "cut off from everything." She and her social worker complete an ecomap. It shows strong lines to her sister and her church, a hatched line to the VA benefits office, where her disability claim has stalled, and no line at all to employment services. Which conclusion BEST follows from the ecomap?

- **A.** Her church ties suggest her difficulties are mainly spiritual
- **B.** Her strong tie to her sister suggests outside resources are less of a priority for now
- **C.** Stress with the benefits office and no link to employment are targets for planning

122. Ella, 15, has anorexia nervosa. Her pediatrician reports she is medically stable for outpatient care, and her parents are eager to help. Which treatment approach has the strongest evidence for her?

A. Individual psychodynamic therapy to explore the meaning of her restriction

B. Family-based treatment with parents in charge of refeeding

C. A peer support group for teens with eating concerns

D. Structural family therapy focused on boundaries before any focus on eating