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LCSW

ASWB Clinical Practice Exam

Exam 5

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 5

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. A preschool teacher reports concerns about Lila, 4. Which observation is MOST concerning for possible sexual abuse?

- **A.** She touches her own genitals at naptime and stops when redirected
- **B.** She asks why boys and girls have different bodies after a sibling's birth
- **C.** She reenacts explicit adult sex acts with dolls in detail

2. The owner of a group practice wants clinicians to start using an AI documentation tool that records sessions and drafts progress notes. The vendor has signed a business associate agreement, encrypts the recordings, and deletes them once the note is drafted. A social worker in the practice is unsure whether to use it with her clients. What should she do?

- **A.** Begin using it with all clients, since the vendor's safeguards meet HIPAA requirements
- **B.** Use it with clients who seem comfortable with technology and leave it off for the others
- **C.** Decline to use it, since recording sessions changes the nature of therapy
- **D.** Explain the tool to each client, get informed consent, and let clients decline it

3. Keisha, 6, has frequent tantrums at home, at kindergarten, and at her grandmother's house. Her social worker plans to measure tantrums in all three places, then introduce a calm-down routine at home first, at school two weeks later, and at her grandmother's two weeks after that. Which design is this?

- **A.** Multiple baseline across behaviors
- **B.** ABAB withdrawal design
- **C.** Multiple baseline across settings

4. A social worker in a group practice is starting video services with Rohan, 29, a new client who registered online. Which step BEST verifies Rohan's identity at the first session?

- **A.** Ask him to confirm his date of birth and home address aloud before starting
- **B.** Rely on the email address he used to register for services
- **C.** Have him show a photo ID on camera and compare it with intake information
- **D.** Ask him to state his full legal name at the start of the session recording

5. A social worker is opening a telehealth practice serving rural clients with unreliable internet. Which step at the start of services BEST addresses possible interruptions in service?

- **A.** Recommend that clients upgrade their internet service before starting treatment
- **B.** Document in the record each session that ends early because of a lost connection and reschedule it
- **C.** Agree with each client on a backup contact method and a plan if a session drops during a crisis
- **D.** Limit telehealth to clients who live within driving distance of an emergency room

6. A social worker will conduct a mental health intake with an in-person interpreter for the first time. What should she do before the session begins?

- **A.** Ask the interpreter to summarize the client's answers rather than interpret them word for word
- **B.** Meet briefly with the interpreter to explain the session's purpose and confidentiality
- **C.** Have the interpreter sign the client's consent form as a witness
- **D.** Ask the interpreter to describe the client's culture to guide the assessment

7. Before each family session, a Milan team develops a working idea about how a child's symptom fits the family system, tests it through questions in the session, and revises it based on what the family says. This practice is called:

- **A.** joining
- **B.** reframing
- **C.** hypothesizing
- **D.** externalizing

8. A social work team uses the Implicit Association Test during a training on bias. What does the test measure?

- **A.** How often people report discriminatory acts they have witnessed in their workplaces
- **B.** Whether a person holds prejudiced attitudes they are willing to admit
- **C.** How accurately a person can identify the race or ethnicity of faces
- **D.** How quickly people pair group categories with positive or negative words

9. Leo, 50, ended therapy owing $600 and now requests a copy of his records for a new provider. The practice manager wants to withhold them until he pays. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Send the records to the new provider and withhold Leo's own copy until the balance is paid
- **B.** Provide the records once Leo signs a payment plan
- **C.** Withhold the records until the balance is paid
- **D.** Provide the records, charging no more than a reasonable cost-based copying fee

10. According to Erikson, which caregiving experience MOST supports a favorable resolution of the first psychosocial stage, trust versus mistrust?

- **A.** Encouragement to plan activities and take the lead in play with others
- **B.** Chances to make simple choices and practice doing things on one's own
- **C.** Consistent, responsive care that reliably meets the infant's needs
- **D.** Praise for mastering skills that peers, teachers, and adults value

11. Mateo, 8, reads two grade levels below his peers despite a year of classroom reading interventions. A school evaluation finds a specific learning disability, and the team agrees he needs specialized reading instruction from a reading specialist. Which plan BEST fits his needs?

- **A.** A classroom behavior intervention plan
- **B.** An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- **C.** A Section 504 plan
- **D.** An Individualized Education Program (IEP)

12. A foster care social worker visits Hannah, 18 months, who was placed with kinship caregivers a month ago after neglect. Her grandmother says Hannah rarely cries for help and seems content alone, so she has been letting her be 'independent.' Which guidance is MOST likely to promote secure attachment?

- **A.** Limit holding and soothing so she keeps the self-reliance she has already developed
- **B.** Respect her preference for space and wait for her to seek comfort on her own terms
- **C.** Provide a stimulating daily schedule of toys and activities to keep her fully engaged
- **D.** Notice and respond warmly to her cues, and offer comfort even when she does not ask

13. During rounds on a medical unit, a nurse asks the social worker for details of a patient's sexual assault history, which the patient disclosed during a psychosocial assessment. The nurse says she is "just curious how it affects her." The patient is being treated for pneumonia, and the history has no bearing on her current care. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Decline to share the details, since they are not needed for the patient's current care
- **B.** Report the nurse to the unit manager for seeking unnecessary information
- **C.** Share the history, since all members of the care team are bound by the same confidentiality rules
- **D.** Ask the patient whether she will allow the history to be shared with the nurse

14. A school social worker convenes the principal, two teachers, a parent, and a nurse to design a plan to reduce chronic absenteeism and present it to the school board in eight weeks. This is a:

- **A.** psychoeducational group
- **B.** task group
- **C.** support group

15. Ms. Abara, 67, is recovering from hip replacement surgery, and the team plans to discharge her home tomorrow. During the social work assessment she mentions she lives alone in a third-floor walk-up apartment. The physical therapy note says she is not yet able to manage stairs. Which action is BEST?

- **A.** Arrange a wheelchair and a home health aide for her apartment
- **B.** Tell the team about the walk-up and explore short-term rehab or staying with family
- **C.** Defer to the physical therapist and medical team on whether discharge to her home is safe

16. When starting a therapy group, what should the social worker tell members about confidentiality?

- **A.** Members are asked to keep what others share private, but the worker cannot promise that they will
- **B.** Members are bound by the same legal confidentiality rules as the worker
- **C.** Confidentiality applies to individual sessions and not to group sessions
- **D.** What members say in group may be discussed outside, as group is less private than individual work

17. For the past ten months, Mr. Ferreira, 52, has been certain his wife is having an affair, citing a moved coffee cup and her new haircut as proof. He checks her phone nightly and hired a private investigator, who found nothing. He continues to run his landscaping business well, has no hallucinations, and speaks clearly about other topics. What is the MOST likely diagnosis?

- **A.** Schizophrenia
- **B.** Paranoid personality disorder
- **C.** Obsessive-compulsive disorder
- **D.** Delusional disorder, jealous type

18. A social worker asks Bryce, 30, "On a scale from 0 to 10, how ready are you to cut back on drinking?" He says, "Maybe a 3." Which follow-up question is BEST for assessing and building his readiness?

- **A.** "Why a 3 and not a 0?"
- **B.** "What would it take to get you to a 10?"
- **C.** "Why not higher than a 3?"
- **D.** "Has anyone else told you that you should cut back?"

19. Renata, a social worker in private practice, has a documented fee agreement with Mr. Abernathy and has twice discussed with him that services will end if his balance is not addressed. Today was planned as their closing session, with referrals ready. Early in the session he says he has been thinking about overdosing on his blood pressure pills and has been saving a supply. What should Renata do FIRST?

A. Refer him to the community mental health center for an urgent intake later this week
B. Assess his suicide risk and put the termination on hold
C. Offer to waive the balance so he can continue in weekly treatment
D. Hold the closing session as planned and add crisis line numbers to the referrals

20. Ramona, 49, has severe alcohol use disorder and a history of withdrawal seizures. She drinks daily, has poorly controlled hypertension, and lives alone in a rural area two hours from the nearest hospital. She wants residential treatment and needs withdrawal management with 24-hour medical monitoring, but she does not need hospital-level intensive care. Under the fourth edition of the ASAM Criteria, which level BEST fits?

A. Level 3.5, clinically managed high-intensity residential
B. Level 2.7, medically managed intensive outpatient
C. Level 3.7, medically managed residential
D. Level 4, medically managed inpatient

21. Which practice BEST reflects a trauma-informed approach to screening for trauma at intake?

A. Postponing all trauma questions until the client has been in treatment for months
B. Reading the same script to each client without adjusting language or pacing
C. Asking for a detailed account of the worst event to gauge its severity
D. Explaining why the questions are asked and that the client may skip any of them

22. Rosalind, 44, is scheduled for a hysterectomy in three weeks. She has asked the surgeon what recovery will feel like, arranged for her sister to stay with her, frozen several meals, and told her social worker she expects to feel low for a while afterward and has planned regular calls with friends. Which defense mechanism is she using?

A. Anticipation
B. Intellectualization
C. Undoing

23. Over the past year, Dominic, 15, has broken into two neighbors' garages, shoplifted repeatedly, smashed windows on cars in a school parking lot, and lied to relatives to get money he spent on vaping. His parents and teachers say he had no behavior problems until he started high school at 14. He seems embarrassed when caught. What is the MOST likely diagnosis?

A. Oppositional defiant disorder
B. Conduct disorder, adolescent-onset type
C. Conduct disorder, childhood-onset type

24. A client in a smoking cessation group says, "Smoking is the one thing that actually calms me down at the end of the day." In motivational interviewing terms, this statement is:

A. Discord
B. Change talk
C. Sustain talk

25. During a parenting group at a family resource center, Mrs. Santos mentions that her daughter, Lucia, 6, has started developing breasts and has some pubic hair. She says she assumed it was 'just early.' Lucia is otherwise well. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Gently ask whether anyone may have harmed Lucia, since early sexual changes can follow abuse
- **B.** Encourage her to schedule a visit with Lucia's pediatrician to have the changes evaluated
- **C.** Reassure her that puberty starts earlier now and plan to discuss puberty education with her

26. Ms. Delgado, who has been in a breast cancer support group for a year, starts driving a newer member to chemotherapy appointments. She tells the group, "Being useful to someone again makes me feel like myself." Which therapeutic factor is she describing?

- **A.** Imitative behavior
- **B.** Group cohesiveness
- **C.** Altruism

27. Mrs. Abernathy, 86, moved into assisted living a month ago. She spends afternoons sorting photographs and retelling stories about her 30 years as a teacher, and she has asked for help recording them for her grandchildren. She sleeps and eats well and joins meals with other residents. Staff ask the social worker whether to steer her toward present-focused activities because she is 'living in the past.' What is the BEST recommendation?

- **A.** Redirect her toward current activities to prevent depressive rumination
- **B.** Support her plan with structured life review or reminiscence sessions
- **C.** Request a cognitive screening, since frequent reminiscing can signal memory decline
- **D.** Encourage her to tutor local children to strengthen her sense of generativity

28. A hospital team is ready to record schizophrenia for Jerome, 24, a Black man admitted with beliefs that neighbors are spying on him. The social worker's interview with his sister reveals that for two weeks before admission he barely slept, spent his savings on 'business plans' and talked nonstop. She says he had a similar episode two years ago that cleared fully within a month. What is the social worker's BEST contribution to the team's discussion?

- **A.** Recommend that the team defer any diagnosis until Jerome's paranoia resolves
- **B.** Present the sister's history as possible evidence of mania with psychotic features
- **C.** Support schizophrenia, since paranoid beliefs are the most prominent current symptom
- **D.** Suggest the team ask Jerome whether his concerns reflect real events in his neighborhood

29. Mr. Haugen, 61, a cattle rancher, was referred by his physician for depression. In the first session at a rural clinic he asks, 'Are you from around here? I don't have much use for city counselors.' The social worker grew up two counties away. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Acknowledge his doubts and offer to find him a different provider if he prefers
- **B.** Answer briefly that she grew up nearby, then ask what he needs from counseling
- **C.** Redirect to the physician's referral to keep the focus on Mr. Haugen
- **D.** Share several stories about her own rural upbringing to build common ground

30. A rural county agency hears from two pastors that many grandparents are raising grandchildren after parents' opioid-related deaths and incarceration. The board asks the clinical director to propose a support program. What should the clinical director do FIRST?

- **A.** Conduct a needs assessment with local data and key informants
- **B.** Adapt a published kinship support curriculum for the county
- **C.** Request county funding to hire a full-time kinship care coordinator
- **D.** Start a pilot support group with the pastors' congregations

31. Yesterday Destiny, 12, told her school social worker that her stepdad hit her with a belt; the social worker saw welts on her legs and made a report to child protective services. Today Destiny says she made the whole thing up, cries, and asks the social worker to 'take it back' because her mom is upset. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Call CPS and ask that the report be withdrawn, since Destiny has retracted it
- **B.** Tell CPS about the retraction, record her exact words, and keep supporting her
- **C.** Question Destiny about who told her to change her story so the details can be passed to CPS
- **D.** Remind Destiny that false statements about abuse can get people into serious trouble

32. Marcia classified identity statuses by whether a person has explored options and whether the person has made commitments. Which status describes a person who has made firm commitments WITHOUT exploring alternatives?

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

33. A preschool director consults the agency social worker about Benji, 4, who often touches his genitals at naptime. He stops when a teacher redirects him, shows no distress, and has had no other behavior changes. The director asks what staff should do. What is the BEST guidance?

- **A.** Treat it as common for his age, redirect calmly, and teach privacy rules
- **B.** Refer him for a sexual abuse evaluation before staff respond to the behavior any further
- **C.** Have staff tell him firmly that touching himself is bad so that he learns to stop doing it
- **D.** Make a report to child protective services, since genital touching at this age can indicate abuse

34. Bianca, 31, sees a social worker in private practice. When her partner is late, she texts him repeatedly and fears he is leaving her. She describes him as 'way too good for me' and needs frequent reassurance that he loves her. In the four-category model of adult attachment, which style BEST fits?

- **A.** Secure
- **B.** Preoccupied
- **C.** Fearful-avoidant
- **D.** Dismissive-avoidant

35. Desmond, 33, tells a social worker that a television news anchor has been sending him personal instructions through the color of her tie each night. He is certain of this and cannot be talked out of it. In the mental status exam, which type of thought content is this?

- **A.** Delusion of grandeur
- **B.** Thought broadcasting
- **C.** Delusion of reference

36. Ravi, 31, spends about four hours a day arranging objects in his apartment in exact patterns and repeats the arrangement whenever he has a "bad thought" about his parents dying. He is completely convinced that if he stops, his parents will die, and he cannot be persuaded otherwise. He has no hallucinations, his speech is organized, and he works as a software tester. What is the MOST likely diagnosis?

- **A.** Delusional disorder
- **B.** Obsessive-compulsive personality disorder
- **C.** OCD, with absent insight/delusional beliefs
- **D.** Schizophrenia

37. Mr. Zhao, 49, came from China to work as an engineer. He reports months of fatigue, poor concentration, headaches and irritability, and he calls the problem shenjing shuairuo, a weakness of the nerves. His PHQ-9 shows moderate depressive symptoms, and he denies thoughts of self-harm. When the social worker mentioned depression, he said he would stop coming if he is 'treated as mentally ill.' What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Review the PHQ-9 results so he understands that he meets criteria for depression
- **B.** Refer him to a practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine who treats shenjing shuairuo
- **C.** Postpone treatment until he is ready to accept a mental health diagnosis
- **D.** Frame the treatment plan around his own terms and the symptoms he wants relieved

38. A social worker joins clients in pressing a city council to fund accessible public transit. Which NASW ethical principle MOST directly supports this work?

- **A.** Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person
- **B.** Social workers behave in a trustworthy manner
- **C.** Social workers challenge social injustice
- **D.** Social workers practice within their areas of competence

39. Mr. Adeyemi, 55, is in counseling for depression after losing his job. He says his faith is his main source of strength and asks whether his pastor could join a session to help him plan how to ask his congregation for support. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Suggest he meet with his pastor separately so counseling stays on clinical goals
- **B.** Explain that involving clergy could blur the line between counseling and religion
- **C.** Invite the pastor and let the pastor lead the faith-related part of the session
- **D.** Get his written consent and plan with him what the pastor will know and do

40. As part of a child welfare case plan approved by the court, Tamika, 27, must complete a 10-week parenting program. At her meeting with the social worker she says the program she was assigned meets during her work shift and that 'nobody asked me anything.' Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Remind her that missing classes could affect whether her children come home
- **B.** Offer to ask the court to waive the parenting program requirement
- **C.** Clarify the court's requirement and offer a choice of approved programs and times
- **D.** Explore her feelings about the agency's involvement in her life before discussing the program

41. Under FERPA, to whom may a school disclose a student's education records without parental consent?

- **A.** A community therapist treating the student whom the family has not authorized
- **B.** A reporter writing a story about discipline in the district
- **C.** School officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the student

42. A supervisor learns that her supervisee posted on a personal social media account about 'a client who brought her pet snake to session today,' with no name. The client lives in the small town where the agency is located and is known locally for keeping snakes. What should the supervisor do?

- **A.** Report the supervisee to the state licensing board before speaking with her about the post
- **B.** Advise the supervisee to set her social media account to private
- **C.** Have the post removed, follow the privacy procedure, and discuss the breach with her

43. A middle school social worker can see students for up to four sessions. Ethan, 12, wants to "stop getting detentions" for talking back to his science teacher. He has no safety concerns and his other classes are going well. Which approach is BEST suited to this setting and goal?

- **A.** Nondirective play therapy
- **B.** Solution-focused brief therapy
- **C.** Psychodynamic therapy

44. A hospital team is divided over continuing aggressive treatment for Mr. Haddad, 68, who has advanced dementia and no advance directive. His two adult children, who share decision-making authority under state law, disagree with each other. The social worker has met with the family twice, and a family meeting with the attending physician ended without agreement. What is the BEST next step?

- **A.** Schedule a third family meeting to reach consensus
- **B.** Request a consultation from the hospital ethics committee
- **C.** Support the child who seems to know the patient's wishes best
- **D.** Recommend that the family petition for a court-appointed guardian

45. Members of a caregivers' group drive through a snowstorm to attend, say they feel accepted "no matter what we say here," and protect the group's meeting time when the agency tries to move it. Which therapeutic factor is MOST evident?

- **A.** Instillation of hope
- **B.** Catharsis
- **C.** Development of socializing techniques
- **D.** Group cohesiveness

46. Lethality has been assessed and is low, and the social worker has established rapport with Ms. Ochoa, 52, whose husband left suddenly yesterday. They have identified the main problems as losing his income and her shock at his leaving. According to Roberts' model, what should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Schedule a follow-up session for next month
- **B.** Refer her to a support group for separated spouses
- **C.** Develop a step-by-step plan with her for replacing her husband's lost income
- **D.** Encourage her to express her feelings about her husband's leaving

47. Mateo, 15, has the agency texting number for scheduling. Over two weeks he has texted his social worker daily with jokes and memes and once asked, "What are you doing this weekend?" None of the texts mention distress or safety. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Reply to each text briefly so that he does not feel ignored or rejected
- **B.** Ask the agency to block his number from the texting line
- **C.** Stop replying and wait for the texts to stop on their own
- **D.** Discuss the texts in session and restate what the texting line is for

48. A social worker in a group practice plans to track her clients' GAD-7 scores each session to guide treatment and review her own effectiveness. She has no plans to publish or present the data. The practice has no policy on internal evaluation. What is the BEST course?

- **A.** Obtain IRB approval before collecting any scores from clients
- **B.** Proceed as routine care, explaining the measure's purpose to clients
- **C.** Ask each client to sign a research consent form before measuring

49. A practice manager tells a social worker that her 30-minute sessions with Ezra, 55, should be billed under the code for 45-minute sessions because "the insurance pays better and they never check." What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Bill the time actually provided and decline the manager's request
- **B.** Lengthen future sessions to 45 minutes so that the code matches
- **C.** Bill at the higher code after documenting why the time was shorter
- **D.** Ask Ezra whether he minds the higher code being used

50. Under HIPAA, for which purpose may a covered provider disclose protected health information without the client's written authorization?

- **A.** Giving records to the client's attorney, who requested them by letter
- **B.** Sending the client's psychotherapy notes to a consulting psychiatrist at another clinic
- **C.** Submitting a claim to the client's health plan for payment

51. Which medication for opioid use disorder is dispensed for that purpose through certified opioid treatment programs, usually with daily clinic visits at first?

- **A.** Buprenorphine
- **B.** Methadone
- **C.** Extended-release naltrexone

52. Jesse, 28, used heroin until yesterday and wants to start "the monthly shot" (extended-release naltrexone) tomorrow so he can return to work Monday. He has heard it "blocks the high." What information is MOST important for the social worker to share?

- **A.** Naltrexone works best when started during active withdrawal to ease the symptoms
- **B.** Naltrexone needs 7 to 10 opioid-free days first, or it can trigger withdrawal
- **C.** Naltrexone is a partial opioid agonist that will reduce his cravings right away
- **D.** Naltrexone requires daily dosing visits at a certified opioid treatment program

53. At intake, a social worker explains the purpose of counseling, its possible risks, the fee and what insurance will cover, the limits the insurer places on services, how long the consent lasts, and the client's right to stop at any time. Which required element has she left out?

- **A.** The social worker's supervision schedule
- **B.** Reasonable alternatives to the proposed services
- **C.** The diagnosis code that will be submitted for billing purposes

54. Ms. Hargrove, 68, is the primary caregiver for her husband, who has advanced Parkinson's disease. She has already arranged home health aides, adapted the house, and secured respite care. She tells the social worker she still feels overwhelmed by grief as she watches him decline, and that she keeps searching for "something else to fix." Which coping focus would BEST fit her situation now?

- **A.** Emotion-focused strategies such as acceptance and meaning-making
- **B.** Problem-focused strategies such as researching new treatment options
- **C.** Problem-focused strategies such as adding more in-home services
- **D.** Avoidance strategies such as limiting time spent with her husband

55. Midway through a session, Jorge, 52, stops and says, 'You think I'm wasting your time. I can tell.' He has described feeling like a burden to his family. The social worker realizes she glanced at the wall clock twice in the last few minutes because she was worried about running late for a meeting. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Reassure him that she values their time together
- **B.** Acknowledge that she looked at the clock and ask how that landed for him
- **C.** Note it to herself as transference and return to the topic he was discussing
- **D.** Explore how this feeling resembles feeling like a burden at home

56. An outpatient clinic wants its intake form to identify clients with military service. Which question is BEST?

- **A.** "Are you a veteran?"
- **B.** "Have you ever served in the military?"
- **C.** "Have you ever served in a combat zone?"

57. Researchers test a new measure of caregiver resilience. Scores correlate moderately with established measures of coping and social support, show little correlation with a vocabulary test, and rise after a resilience-building group, as theory predicts. What do these findings support MOST directly?

- **A.** Internal consistency reliability
- **B.** Construct validity
- **C.** Content validity
- **D.** Face validity

58. Mr. Achterberg, 77, had a normal neuropsychological evaluation three months ago. He gives about a tenth of his pension each month to the church he has attended for 40 years, and his bills are paid. His daughter asks his social worker to 'make him stop' because she worries about his savings. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Respect his decision and, if he wishes, talk with him about how the giving fits his budget and goals
- **B.** Arrange a family meeting so his daughter can explain her worries about his savings and future care costs
- **C.** Report the giving to adult protective services as possible financial exploitation

59. Sergeant Morales deployed overseas two weeks ago. His wife brings their son, Gabriel, 6, to a social worker at the base family clinic. Gabriel has started wetting the bed again, clings to his mother at school drop-off, and asks every day when his father is coming home. What is the BEST approach?

- **A.** Explain that these reactions are common after a deployment and help the family keep routines and contact
- **B.** Evaluate Gabriel for separation anxiety disorder, given his distress whenever he is apart from his mother
- **C.** Recommend that the mother limit talk about the father to avoid upsetting Gabriel further
- **D.** Refer Gabriel for individual play therapy to help him process the deployment

60. A substance use clinic announces that staff should send appointment reminders from their personal phones by ordinary text message, including the clinic's name. A social worker is concerned that this could reveal clients' treatment to anyone who sees their phones. What should she do FIRST?

- **A.** Raise the confidentiality concern with her supervisor and propose a secure alternative
- **B.** Stop sending reminders to her clients until the policy changes
- **C.** Send the reminders from her personal phone but leave out the clinic's name to reduce risk

61. The parents of Pao, 19, bring him to a clinic. For eight months he has stayed in his room, talked to people who are not there, and stopped washing or eating regularly. His parents, who are Hmong, believe his soul has been frightened away and plan a healing ceremony with a shaman next week. Pao agrees to whatever his parents decide. They ask whether the clinic will 'go along with' the ceremony. What is the BEST response?

A. Explain that Pao's symptoms are a medical illness that the ceremony cannot treat

B. Wait until after the ceremony to see whether his symptoms improve before evaluating him

C. Respect the ceremony and offer Pao a psychiatric evaluation to take place alongside it

D. Defer to the family's explanation, since soul loss is a recognized cultural concept

Section 2 Questions 62-122

62. While building a genogram with Corinne, 34, a social worker notices that Corinne's maternal grandmother, her mother, and Corinne herself each married at about 19, divorced within five years, and became the sole financial support of their children. Corinne says the pattern is "just bad luck." Which Bowen concept BEST explains the social worker's interest in this pattern?

- **A.** Family projection process
- **B.** Nuclear family emotional system
- **C.** Multigenerational transmission process
- **D.** Societal emotional process

63. A community agency runs its weekly anxiety group in a basement room reached by stairs. Delia, 67, who uses a walker, has completed the intake and wants to join. A first-floor meeting room is available at the same time. What should the agency do?

- **A.** Offer Delia individual sessions in place of the group
- **B.** Move the group to the first-floor room so Delia can attend
- **C.** Place Delia on the waitlist for a future group held on the first floor

64. A researcher studying bias in clinical judgment wants to tell social worker participants that the study is about documentation, so they will not adjust their ratings of case vignettes. The IRB agrees the study could not be done otherwise and that risk is minimal. What else is required?

- **A.** A waiver of consent so participants are not told about the study
- **B.** An extra payment to compensate participants for being misled
- **C.** A debriefing that explains the true purpose after participation
- **D.** A signed agreement not to discuss the study with colleagues

65. A rural agency social worker receives a subpoena, issued by a court clerk at a prosecutor's request, for records of his client Ms. Ruiz, a witness in a criminal case. He calls Ms. Ruiz, who says she does not want her records released and will not sign a release. What should he do NEXT?

- **A.** Through counsel, assert privilege in response and withhold the records unless a court orders release
- **B.** Take no action, since Ms. Ruiz has refused consent and a subpoena issued by a court clerk lacks legal force
- **C.** Release the records by the deadline, since a subpoena overrides a client's objection
- **D.** Send a summary of the records to the prosecutor in place of the full chart

66. Which pairing of a psychotic disorder with its required duration is correct?

- **A.** Brief psychotic disorder: at least 1 day, under 1 month
- **B.** Schizophrenia: at least 1 month of total disturbance
- **C.** Schizophreniform disorder: 6 months to 1 year
- **D.** Delusional disorder: delusions lasting at least 6 months

67. Mrs. Navarro, 61, has a living will stating she does not want mechanical ventilation. She is now in the ICU with pneumonia, alert, and has capacity. After the physician explains that a short period on a ventilator would likely help her recover, she says she wants it. Her husband says, 'Her living will says no machines.' What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Follow the living will, since it reflects her considered wishes
- **B.** Explain that her current decision, made with capacity, guides her care
- **C.** Ask the ethics committee to decide between the living will and her request

68. In the fifth session of a parenting group, Darius says loudly, 'You take the moms' side every time.' Two other fathers nod. The group has six more sessions. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Ask to speak with Darius privately after group to hear more about his concern
- **B.** Explain that the curriculum was written for all parents equally
- **C.** Thank him for raising it and ask for an example the group can look at

69. Angry about a letter the social worker wrote to his probation officer at his request, Mr. Delacroix tells her during a session at an outpatient clinic, "I know where you park. You'll regret this." Over the next two days he leaves two voicemails repeating the threat. The social worker has informed her supervisor, and the clinic has documented the incidents. What is the MOST appropriate next step regarding the treatment relationship?

- **A.** Close the case without contacting him so as not to provoke further threats
- **B.** End services with written notice and referrals, without further in-person contact
- **C.** Continue treatment, moving his sessions to times when the clinic's security staff are on site
- **D.** Schedule a session to explore his anger and repair the rupture

70. A hospital social worker plans discharges for patients needing outpatient physical therapy. Her husband owns a well-regarded physical therapy clinic near the hospital, and she has been referring many patients there. She receives no payment. Which action BEST addresses the ethical issue?

- **A.** Refer patients to her husband's clinic when they ask about that clinic by name
- **B.** Continue the referrals, since she receives no direct payment
- **C.** Stop referring any patients to her husband's clinic
- **D.** Disclose the relationship to patients and her supervisor and offer options

71. During an intake at a community clinic, Jordan, 30, completes an ACE questionnaire and scores 6. He reports stable work and a supportive partner and is seeking help for stress about a promotion. A colleague comments that with a score that high, Jordan "probably has PTSD." Which response BEST reflects appropriate use of the ACE?

- **A.** The score warrants starting trauma-focused treatment right away
- **B.** The score identifies Jordan as someone likely to develop serious health problems
- **C.** The score counts childhood adversities, not current symptoms or a diagnosis
- **D.** The score is less meaningful because Jordan currently functions well

72. A hospice social worker is planning a group for spouses whose partners died in the past year. In planning interviews, most say they want to meet others going through the same loss, swap practical tips, and "not feel so alone," and none report symptoms beyond expected grief. Which group format BEST fits these members?

- **A.** A closed therapy group focused on changing longstanding relational patterns
- **B.** A support group built around mutual aid among the members
- **C.** A psychoeducational lecture series on the stages of grief
- **D.** A task group that plans a memorial event for the hospice

73. In the sixth session of treatment for work stress, Oscar, 50, mentions that he was in foster care from ages 8 to 14, which he left off his intake form. He says he "didn't think it mattered." What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Begin trauma-focused work, since early placement history often underlies adult stress
- **B.** Continue the current plan, since the intake assessment has been completed
- **C.** Refer him for a trauma evaluation with a specialist before the next session
- **D.** Explore the history with him and update the assessment and plan as needed

74. A clinic wants its social workers to use affirming practices at intake. Which practice BEST supports this goal?

- **A.** Ask about pronouns when a client's appearance suggests they may be transgender
- **B.** Use the pronouns that match the sex listed on the client's identification
- **C.** Share your own name and pronouns and invite each client to share theirs
- **D.** Wait to discuss pronouns until a client raises the topic of gender

75. A social worker is appointed by a juvenile court to complete a home study on a guardianship petition filed by Mrs. Achebe, 62, for her grandson. At the first home visit, Mrs. Achebe begins confiding about her own depression and asks for advice. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Clarify her role as the court's evaluator and the limits of confidentiality
- **B.** Offer brief supportive counseling, then return to the home study
- **C.** Leave the depression out of her report to protect Mrs. Achebe's privacy and trust

76. Mr. Abernathy, 74, a retired bookkeeper, tells a senior center social worker that over the past year he has needed lists and phone alarms to keep track of appointments and bills, and that balancing his checkbook takes twice as long as it used to. He still manages his finances, medications, and driving without help. Neuropsychological testing shows a modest decline in memory and executive function from his prior level. What is the MOST likely diagnosis?

- **A.** Major neurocognitive disorder
- **B.** Mild neurocognitive disorder
- **C.** Normal age-related cognitive change

77. Teodoro is in systematic desensitization for fear of flying. He has learned progressive muscle relaxation and built a hierarchy. While imagining the third step, sitting at the gate, he signals that his SUDS rating has jumped to 70. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Have him keep imagining the gate scene until the anxiety passes on its own
- **B.** Pause the scene, help him relax, then repeat the same step
- **C.** End the session and assign relaxation practice before trying again
- **D.** Move him to the next step so the gate scene feels easier by comparison

78. Ms. Achebe, 68, has metastatic cancer and full decision-making capacity. Early on she told her oncology social worker, 'I want to make treatment choices, but I don't want to hear survival numbers. Talk to my niece about that.' She signed a release for her niece. A new resident tells the social worker that patients have a right to full disclosure and plans to give her the statistics today. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Share Ms. Achebe's stated preference with the resident and help the team honor it
- **B.** Wait until Ms. Achebe herself asks about her prognosis before discussing it with anyone
- **C.** Support the resident, since truthfulness requires telling her the full prognosis
- **D.** Ask the niece to decide whether Ms. Achebe should hear the statistics

79. Keisha, 26, asks her social worker to send appointment reminders and therapy worksheets to her personal email. The practice's standard email is not encrypted. What should the worker do?

- **A.** Agree and begin sending the materials, since Keisha asked for email
- **B.** Send the materials by postal mail, which is more secure
- **C.** Decline, since the HIPAA rules forbid sending any client information by unencrypted email
- **D.** Explain the risks of unencrypted email and honor her choice if she still wants it

80. Teresa and Luis request couples therapy for communication problems. Four years ago Luis shoved Teresa once during an argument; both then completed individual treatment. In separate screening interviews, both report no violence, threats, monitoring, or fear since then, and both want joint sessions. What is the BEST approach?

- **A.** Begin conjoint therapy and continue individual safety check-ins as treatment proceeds
- **B.** Decline couples therapy because of the history and refer each partner to individual treatment
- **C.** Begin conjoint therapy without further screening, since the violence ended years ago

81. At intake for outpatient trauma treatment, Mateo, 33, says he does not want to fill out questionnaires because a prior clinic "turned me into numbers." The agency encourages but does not require outcome measures. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Tell him the agency needs the scores and ask him to try one short form
- **B.** Agree to skip measures and plan to raise them again at termination
- **C.** Use clinician ratings of his symptoms without discussing it with him
- **D.** Explain how scores would guide his care, and respect his decision

82. A social worker in private practice plans to raise her fee by 15 percent. Several current clients have been in treatment for over a year. What should she do FIRST?

- **A.** Apply the new fee to all clients starting next week
- **B.** Apply the new fee to new clients and let current ones learn of it later
- **C.** Give current clients advance written notice and discuss their options
- **D.** Ask each current client what fee increase they can accept

83. A client assaulted a receptionist at a county mental health office last week. The receptionist is recovering, and several staff say they now feel unsafe at work. As program manager, what is the BEST response to the staff's concerns?

- **A.** Remind staff that assaults are rare and encourage them to use the EAP
- **B.** Bar the client from receiving future services at the office
- **C.** Hire a security guard and close the topic so as to avoid raising staff anxiety further
- **D.** Meet with staff to review the incident and update safety procedures with their input

84. Kwame, two weeks into his first post-MSW job at an outpatient clinic, asks his supervisor for specific steps to follow in intake interviews and seems anxious when she asks open questions such as 'What do you think you should do?' Which supervisory approach is BEST at this stage?

- **A.** Keep using open questions so he learns to rely on his own judgment from the start
- **B.** Provide more structure and direct guidance, then increase his autonomy as his skills grow
- **C.** Ask him to explore the source of his anxiety during supervision
- **D.** Assign him to group supervision so that peers can answer his questions

85. Two weeks after linking a client to a food pantry, a case manager calls to confirm that the client has started going and to ask whether the pantry's hours and food meet her family's needs. This BEST illustrates which case management function?

- **A.** Advocacy
- **B.** Reassessment
- **C.** Monitoring
- **D.** Linking

86. A school social worker is planning to give a standardized math screening to a group of students for a dropout-prevention program. Which practice BEST reduces the risk of stereotype threat?

- **A.** Tell students the screening is designed to measure ability differences between groups
- **B.** Seat students in groups by gender so they feel comfortable during the screening
- **C.** Collect demographic information such as race and gender after the screening

87. Owen, 6, became withdrawn and stopped talking about his grandmother after she died two months ago. He has no tantrums or aggression, and his teacher reports he follows classroom rules. His parents are supportive but say he "won't talk about it with us." Which approach is BEST?

- **A.** Child-centered play therapy
- **B.** Parent management training
- **C.** A token economy for talking about feelings
- **D.** Parent-child interaction therapy

88. At Thanksgiving, Rena's brothers start their yearly argument about politics and turn to her to take a side. She says calmly, "I see it differently from both of you, and I'd rather talk about Mom's surgery," then stays at the table and keeps chatting with her family. In Bowen theory, Rena is showing:

- **A.** a high level of differentiation of self
- **B.** emotional cutoff from her family of origin
- **C.** triangulation with her brothers
- **D.** a super-reasonable communication stance

89. Paloma, 41, asks her social worker not to call her home phone or leave voicemails and to reach her by text on her cell phone. She does not say why. How should the worker respond under HIPAA?

- **A.** Agree after Paloma explains why she needs this
- **B.** Accommodate the request and note it in her record
- **C.** Explain that the practice uses the home number listed at intake

90. A juvenile probation social worker is assessing Kendra, 15, who meets criteria for conduct disorder. For more than a year, at home, at school, and in detention, she has shown no guilt after hurting others, seemed unconcerned about failing her classes, and expressed emotions that staff describe as shallow and used to get what she wants. Teachers note she does not appear bothered when peers are upset. Which specifier BEST captures this picture?

- **A.** Adolescent-onset type
- **B.** With limited prosocial emotions
- **C.** Severe
- **D.** With mixed disturbance of emotions and conduct

91. Hours after a heated argument with his father, Emeka, 19, developed weakness in his right leg and could not walk. The neurologist found that his leg strength changes with distraction and that the pattern matches no nerve or brain injury; imaging is normal. Emeka is distressed by the weakness, has no pending legal or insurance claims, and wants to return to his apprenticeship. What is the MOST likely diagnosis?

- **A.** Malingering
- **B.** Factitious disorder imposed on self
- **C.** Functional neurological symptom disorder

92. After eight sessions for social anxiety, Hamid, 28, tells his social worker he wants to stop counseling because he feels 'good enough for now.' The worker thinks he would benefit from several more sessions. What should the social worker do?

A. Respect his decision, summarize his progress, and explain how he can return
B. Ask him to commit to three more sessions before ending
C. Tell him that ending now, before the planned work is done, is likely to undo his progress

93. A hospital social worker is assigned to Mr. Lyle, 76, who was admitted this morning with pneumonia and is expected to stay four to five days. He lives alone with his dog in a second-floor apartment. What should the social worker do FIRST?

A. Begin assessing his home situation and supports for after discharge
B. Arrange home health services to start after he goes home
C. Wait until the physician sets a discharge date to begin planning
D. Call his son to ask whether he can stay with his father for a while after discharge

94. Eduardo, 29, has made three suicide attempts in two years, all after relationship conflicts. He describes intense anger that comes on fast, chronic emptiness, and repeated breakups. He currently has no plan or intent and wants help "not blowing up my life." Which treatment is BEST?

A. Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy
B. Brief psychodynamic therapy
C. Dialectical behavior therapy
D. Interpersonal psychotherapy

95. Theo, 15, has been working in narrative therapy on standing up to "the Worry." He invites his grandmother and his track coach to a session. They listen to his story, then tell what stood out to them and how it touched their own lives. Which technique is this?

A. Enactment
B. Family sculpting
C. Outsider witness practice

96. Elijah, 15, tells the school social worker that his parents told him not to come home after they found messages between him and his boyfriend. He has stayed with a friend for two nights, and his parents have not answered his calls. Elijah asks the social worker to keep this between them. State law defines a parent's refusal to provide a minor with shelter as neglect and requires school staff to report suspected neglect. What should the social worker do FIRST?

A. Report the situation to child protective services and tell Elijah about the report
B. Call Elijah's parents first to learn whether they will let him return home tonight
C. Help Elijah arrange to keep staying with his friend's family while he decides
D. Honor Elijah's request for now and meet with him daily to monitor his situation

97. Ms. Ramírez, 39, has missed three of her last five counseling appointments. She works rotating shifts at a warehouse and takes two buses to reach the clinic. A colleague describes her as "not motivated." What is the BEST next step for her social worker?

A. Discuss her pattern of missed appointments and review her commitment to treatment
B. Ask about barriers and offer options such as evening, phone, or video sessions
C. Assess her readiness for change using the stages of change model
D. Reduce her sessions to once a month until her attendance improves

98. Mr. and Mrs. Castellano, both 79, have hosted family holidays for decades. Since Mr. Castellano's stroke, their adult children want to host and to help with finances. Mrs. Castellano tells the social worker, "I'm still the mother; this isn't their job." Which family life cycle task is the family MOST directly working on?

- **A.** Renegotiating the marital system as a dyad
- **B.** Refocusing on midlife couple and career issues
- **C.** Allowing children to move in and out of the family
- **D.** Accepting the shift of generational roles

99. Two sisters share care of their father, who has dementia. When they disagree about his care, each calls their younger brother to complain about the other, and he spends hours on the phone with them. The sisters rarely talk to each other directly. In Bowen's terms, the brother is part of:

- **A.** a triangle
- **B.** an emotional cutoff
- **C.** a family projection process

100. At the end of a session, a social worker and a client agree that before Thursday the client will call her daughter's school counselor and the worker will obtain the bus pass application. Next session they will review how each task went. Which practice model does this describe?

- **A.** Solution-focused brief therapy
- **B.** Task-centered practice
- **C.** Behavioral contingency contracting

101. A clinical team wants the strongest available evidence on whether a specific intervention reduces self-harm in adolescents. Which source should they look for FIRST?

- **A.** A large cohort study following adolescents who received the treatment
- **B.** A detailed case series from a clinic that specializes in the treatment
- **C.** A systematic review that pools results from several randomized trials
- **D.** A consensus statement from the experts who developed the treatment

102. Mr. Delacroix, 45, is ready for discharge after nine days on an inpatient psychiatric unit following a suicide attempt during a severe depressive episode. He no longer reports suicidal intent, has a safety plan, and will live with his wife, but he still struggles to get through the day without structure, and the team believes he needs daily treatment for now. Which discharge plan BEST fits?

- **A.** Discharge to weekly outpatient therapy with his previous therapist
- **B.** Extend his inpatient stay until his depressive symptoms fully resolve
- **C.** Step down to a partial hospitalization program while he lives at home
- **D.** Transfer him to a residential treatment program for several months

103. Soledad, 35, tells a social worker at a legal aid clinic that she plans to leave her husband next Friday while he is at work. Last month he strangled her until she nearly passed out, he recently bought a handgun, and he has said he will kill her if she ever leaves. She has told no one else. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Connect her today with a domestic violence advocate to plan a high-risk departure
- **B.** Refer her to individual counseling to process the trauma before Friday
- **C.** Help her prepare a protective order petition to be served on him before she leaves
- **D.** Encourage her to tell her husband in a calm setting with a friend present

104. Grant, 34, an engineer seen in private practice, asks to be evaluated for ADHD. He says he was an organized, high-achieving student, but over the past five months he cannot concentrate, misses deadlines, and forgets meetings. These problems began around the time his daughter was born, and he sleeps about four broken hours a night. What is the BEST next step?

- **A.** Explore sleep, mood, and other recent changes that could explain his symptoms
- **B.** Administer an adult ADHD self-report scale to confirm the diagnosis
- **C.** Refer him to a psychiatrist to discuss a trial of stimulant medication for focus
- **D.** Teach organizational strategies such as calendar alerts and task lists

105. A social worker leads a kindergarten readiness group for children turning 5. According to the CDC's 2022 checklists, which motor skill would she expect most children to show by age 5?

- **A.** Ties shoelaces without help
- **B.** Hops on one foot
- **C.** Rides a two-wheel bicycle without training wheels

106. The parents of Mateo, 9, tell a social worker that he no longer wants to cuddle with them, spends hours trading cards with boys from his class, and says girls are 'gross.' He is doing well in school and in soccer. In Freud's theory, which stage does this behavior reflect?

- **A.** Phallic
- **B.** Genital
- **C.** Latency

107. Since separating from her abusive ex-partner, Keisha, 33, notices he keeps showing up wherever she goes. Her phone is on a family plan he set up, and she still drives a car he co-signed for. Which addition to her safety plan is MOST relevant?

- **A.** Changing her daily routines so she is harder to predict
- **B.** Technology safety, including checks for location sharing and tracking devices
- **C.** A list of friends and relatives she can stay with if she feels unsafe at home

108. Under the NASW Code of Ethics, social workers may limit a client's right to self-determination when the client's actions or potential actions pose which kind of risk?

- **A.** A risk of significant financial loss to members of the client's family
- **B.** A risk that the client will not reach the goals in the treatment plan
- **C.** A serious, foreseeable, and imminent risk to themselves or others
- **D.** A risk the social worker judges to be greater than the client believes it is

109. After a 6-year-old discloses abuse to a school social worker, which documentation BEST supports the report and any later investigation?

- **A.** The child's exact words, the questions that prompted them, and the setting
- **B.** A summary of what the child likely meant, written in clear adult language
- **C.** The worker's assessment of whether the child seemed to be telling the truth

110. In a single-subject evaluation, why does the social worker measure the target behavior repeatedly before starting the intervention?

- **A.** To give the client time to build rapport before treatment begins
- **B.** To show the problem's natural level and trend for comparison
- **C.** To confirm the diagnosis before choosing an intervention

111. Earl, 58, runs a cattle ranch in a sparsely populated county. His wife persuaded him to see the county's mental health social worker after months of poor sleep and irritability. He says, "Out here we handle our own problems," and mentions that he trusts his pastor and the county extension agent. What is the BEST approach?

- **A.** Respect his self-reliance, frame counseling practically, and with consent involve supports he trusts
- **B.** Explain that his self-reliance is a barrier he will need to set aside if counseling is going to help him
- **C.** Refer him to a clinic in the city, where he is less likely to be recognized
- **D.** Suggest that he return when he feels more ready to talk about his problems

112. A social worker who immigrated from the Philippines as a teenager is assigned Joel, 16, who recently arrived from Manila. She finds herself assuming she knows how Joel feels about leaving home and has skipped parts of the standard assessment because "I already know this story." Joel speaks fluent English. What should she do?

- **A.** Let her own background guide treatment goals, since she understands the culture well
- **B.** Ask that Joel be reassigned to a worker without a shared background
- **C.** Discuss the over-identification in supervision and complete the full assessment
- **D.** Share her own immigration story with Joel to build rapport

113. Within a few minutes of a hospital interview, Ms. Arceneaux laughs loudly at a nurse's comment, then sobs about her lost wallet, then laughs again, with each shift coming abruptly. Which term BEST describes her affect?

- **A.** Expansive
- **B.** Labile
- **C.** Blunted

114. At a primary care clinic, Mr. Hollis, 78, a widower, tells the integrated care social worker he is 'just tired of everything' since his wife died last year. He drinks several beers each evening, has worsening arthritis pain, and mentions he keeps his late wife's pistol in the bedroom. He is wearing a cap from his old fire department. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Coordinate with his physician about better pain management
- **B.** Ask him directly whether he has been thinking about ending his life
- **C.** Screen his alcohol use with a standardized questionnaire
- **D.** Recommend a grief support group at the local senior center

115. A forensic social worker is reviewing violence risk factors for a client on probation. Which of these is a dynamic risk factor that can change with intervention?

- **A.** Male sex and young adult age
- **B.** Current heavy methamphetamine use
- **C.** A first arrest for assault at age 14

116. Renata, 19, a community college student, seeks an evaluation through campus counseling. She reports five persistent inattention symptoms (careless errors, losing things, trouble organizing, avoiding sustained mental effort, forgetfulness) and two hyperactive-impulsive symptoms. Report cards and her mother's account confirm similar problems at school and at home since third grade, and she is now failing two classes and was fired from a cafe job for missed shifts. Screening for depression, anxiety, and substance use is negative. Which conclusion is BEST supported?

- **A.** She falls short of ADHD because six inattentive symptoms are required at any age
- **B.** Other specified ADHD, because her hyperactive symptoms are below threshold
- **C.** Specific learning disorder, because her problems are mainly academic
- **D.** She meets the symptom threshold for ADHD, predominantly inattentive presentation

117. Before a utilization review call, a client tells his social worker, 'Just tell them I'm suicidal so they approve more sessions.' He has had no suicidal thoughts during treatment. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Explain that she will report his symptoms accurately and present his real needs
- **B.** Report mild suicidal ideation to strengthen his case for continued outpatient care
- **C.** Cancel the review call and switch him to a sliding-fee arrangement

118. During a research interview for an agency study on caregiving stress, a participant begins crying and says she has been thinking about taking her pills "to make it all stop." The interviewer is a licensed social worker, and the study protocol includes a distress procedure. What should the interviewer do FIRST?

- **A.** Pause the interview and assess her suicide risk per the distress procedure
- **B.** Finish the remaining questions quickly, then give her a crisis line number
- **C.** Note the statement in the data and report it to the IRB at the end of the day
- **D.** End the interview and ask her physician to assess her later this week

119. Nadia, 24, is in exposure therapy for social anxiety. She has completed several exposures, such as asking strangers for directions, but her anxiety is not decreasing across trials. She mentions that she grips her phone, avoids eye contact, and rehearses each sentence in her head during the exposures. What is the BEST next step?

- **A.** Increase how often she practices the same exposures
- **B.** Move her back to an easier level of the hierarchy
- **C.** Add relaxation breathing to use during each exposure
- **D.** Help her drop the safety behaviors

120. Aaron, 23, came out a year ago. He now spends nearly all his time in LGBTQ spaces, has cut off contact with his straight friends, and tells his social worker that "straight people are the enemy." He is angry about discrimination and has thrown himself into activism. Which Cass stage does this MOST likely reflect?

- **A.** Identity synthesis
- **B.** Identity pride
- **C.** Identity tolerance
- **D.** Identity comparison

121. Laila, 39, finds a social worker's personal email address online and sends a long message describing her panic attacks and her marriage. The agency uses a secure messaging portal. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Reply from the personal account, since Laila chose it and has accepted the risk
- **B.** Reply via the secure portal, explain contact options, and chart relevant content
- **C.** Ignore the email and wait for Laila to raise it at her next session
- **D.** Forward the email to her agency account and continue the conversation from there

122. Gabriela, 31, has Medicaid and wants a psychiatric medication evaluation for depression. The social worker knows a psychiatrist in private practice whom other clients have liked. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Confirm that the psychiatrist accepts her Medicaid plan and has openings
- **B.** Call the psychiatrist and describe Gabriela's situation to see if he can help
- **C.** Suggest that her primary care doctor prescribe instead
- **D.** Give Gabriela the psychiatrist's name and phone number