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STUDY GUIDES

LMSW

ASWB Masters Practice Exam

Exam 2

Unseen exam: not in the online simulator

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

Values and Ethics 35% • Assessment and Planning 33% • 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 Masters 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 the SEARCH rung and distractor family (Chapter 2 of the book).

LMSW Practice Exam 2

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. These 122 questions are reserved for this exam and do not appear in the online simulator, so your score is a fresh read on your readiness.

Section 1 Questions 1-61

1. Aaliyah, 16, asks to begin counseling at a community clinic and says she was emancipated last year, so she can sign for herself. In this state, minors need a parent's consent for outpatient counseling unless they are emancipated. She has no paperwork with her and is not in crisis. What should the intake LMSW do FIRST?

- **A.** Ask for the court's emancipation order before relying on it
- **B.** Accept her statement and have her sign her own consent form today
- **C.** Contact her parents to confirm whether she has been emancipated
- **D.** Begin services today and note that her emancipation is unverified

2. Amara, 34, has just moved from a domestic violence shelter into transitional housing where she can stay up to 18 months. She completed a safety plan at the shelter last week and has had no contact from her former partner. Family court has not yet set any requirements. She wants to regain custody of her children, find an apartment, get a full-time job and enroll in college, all within 30 days. What is the MOST appropriate response when writing her service plan?

- **A.** Write all four goals into the plan with 90-day time frames so each is realistic
- **B.** Help Amara rank the four goals and set first steps she can reach this month
- **C.** Start with the custody goal and the steps that family court has ordered
- **D.** Update her safety plan before writing any of the service plan goals

3. Ms. Adeyemi, 70, lives alone in a third-floor walk-up apartment. Since her knee surgery she has stopped going out and tells the aging services social worker that she feels 'useless.' Applying the life model, which intervention BEST addresses her person-environment fit?

- **A.** Refer her to her primary care clinic for a depression screening
- **B.** Help her challenge the belief that being homebound makes her useless
- **C.** Help her secure housing changes or supports that let her get out again
- **D.** Encourage her to join a telephone support group for older adults

4. Every time Leo, 7, hits his younger brother, his foster mother takes away 30 minutes of tablet time that evening. Over three weeks the hitting becomes much less frequent. Which principle BEST describes this consequence?

- **A.** Extinction
- **B.** Negative reinforcement
- **C.** Negative punishment
- **D.** Positive punishment

5. Tomás, a new LMSW at a refugee resettlement agency, keeps a notebook at home with clients' names and detailed reflections on each session so that he can process them with his supervisor during their weekly meetings. What is the main ethical problem with this practice?

- **A.** Identifiable client information is kept outside the agency's secure system.
- **B.** Supervision discussions should use de-identified material, not client names.
- **C.** Reflective notes used in supervision become part of the record clients may request.

6. A school social worker reviews her weekly log for her supervisor, who wants her to spend more time on work that changes conditions for students across the district. She lists several tasks she completed this week at her middle school. Which task is an example of MACRO practice?

- **A.** Counseling a student whose parents have recently decided to separate
- **B.** Leading a weekly social skills group for six students in the sixth grade
- **C.** Working with the district to revise its suspension policy for all schools
- **D.** Meeting with a teacher to plan classroom supports for one of her students

7. Paulo, 40, has learned in anger management to challenge his angry thoughts and to state his needs calmly, and both help. But he says that by late afternoon his shoulders and jaw are clenched, his heart is pounding, and small irritations set him off. Which technique BEST addresses what he now describes?

- **A.** Cognitive restructuring of the thoughts that come before his anger
- **B.** Assertiveness training to state his needs more directly to others
- **C.** Progressive muscle relaxation to lower his physical arousal

8. Lorenzo Bianchi, 67, is hospitalized after a stroke. He asks the hospital social worker to let him read her psychosocial assessment, which is in his electronic health record. Hospital policy routes all patient record requests through the health information management department. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Show him the assessment on her computer screen today and answer his questions
- **B.** Help him submit a request to health information management and offer to discuss it
- **C.** Summarize her assessment for him verbally today and note the conversation in his chart

9. Imani Clarke, 15, and her father are in their third session at a youth services agency about arguments over curfew. Last week the worker met with each of them alone, and today they are discussing the issue calmly. Her father wants the agreement to list only Imani's responsibilities. Imani says that is unfair because he "changes the rules whenever he wants." How should the social worker approach the contract?

- **A.** Postpone the contract and coach them in communication skills first
- **B.** Meet with Imani alone again to hear her view before drafting terms
- **C.** Include tasks for both, such as a fixed curfew and set consequences
- **D.** Write in her father's curfew rules and the privileges Imani can earn

10. A social worker facilitating a planning meeting for a homeless services coalition gathers 12 members in one room. She asks each member to write down ideas silently, then has members share them one at a time in round-robin fashion without debate, clarifies each idea as a group, and ends with a private written ranking. Which method is the worker using?

- **A.** Delphi technique
- **B.** Nominal group technique
- **C.** Focus group

11. Halima, 34, a single mother resettled as a refugee, tells her caseworker that her children's school sends notices only in English, a language she reads poorly. She wants to raise the issue with the principal herself but is nervous about speaking to him. Consistent with empowerment-oriented advocacy, what should the caseworker do?

- **A.** Call the principal to request translated notices on Halima's behalf
- **B.** Encourage her to join the school's parent council to raise language access
- **C.** Arrange a volunteer to translate each of the school's notices for her
- **D.** Help her plan what to say and offer to go with her to see the principal

12. Marcus, 31, a single father working two part-time jobs, has received an eviction notice. He has missed two appointments with his son's school social worker and forgot to return a free lunch form. A teacher says he "doesn't seem to care." When reached by phone, Marcus says he appreciates the school's help, sleeps well and enjoys time with his son, and he has no history of attention problems. What is the MOST likely explanation for his difficulties?

A. He feels judged by the school and is avoiding contact with staff
B. He is depressed, which is draining his energy and concentration
C. He has an undiagnosed attention disorder that affects planning
D. Scarcity from the eviction is taxing his attention and memory

13. In the third meeting of a support group for new parents at a community center, members begin criticizing the facilitator's agenda and arguing about whose turn it is to talk. What should the facilitator do?

A. Name the tension and ask members to discuss how they want the group to run
B. Restate the group's agreements about turn-taking and continue the agenda
C. Let members work out the conflict among themselves without stepping in
D. Talk privately after the meeting with the members who criticized the agenda

14. Tyrell, 22, is brought to a crisis stabilization unit by his family after five days of heavy methamphetamine use. He believes neighbors are spying on him through the walls and is hearing voices. He has no prior psychiatric history, and his family says he was doing well before this binge. His mother asks the social worker whether he has schizophrenia. Which explanation is MOST likely at this point?

A. Schizophrenia, which often first appears in the early twenties
B. Bipolar I disorder, current episode manic with psychotic features
C. Stimulant-induced psychotic disorder, which usually clears with abstinence
D. Brief psychotic disorder, which lasts at least a day and under a month

15. Hyun-woo, 38, receives CBT for depression at an outpatient clinic. Over five weeks of thought records he has weighed the evidence on "My coworkers find me boring," and last month they traced it to the core belief "I am unlikable." He says, "I know it's not logical, but I still believe it," and he avoids the break room. He denies feeling anxious there. What should the social worker do NEXT?

A. Plan for him to join coworkers on a break and record what actually happens
B. Use the downward arrow to find what being seen as boring means about him
C. Teach a relaxation routine he can use before going into the break room
D. Keep using thought records on this belief for several more weeks

16. At a reentry program, a social worker leads a mandated cognitive skills group whose attendance and completion are reported to the parole board. At the first session, Tobias Wright, 37, asks whether what he says in the group about his past will be passed on to the board. What should the social worker do?

A. Explain exactly what the program reports to the board and what it does not
B. Explain that group content stays in the group unless a safety issue arises
C. Refer his question to his parole officer, who manages the board's reports
D. Suggest he share only what he is comfortable with until he knows the rules

17. A research team wants to study how case managers respond to clients who request help in different ways. Telling case managers the real purpose in advance would likely change how they respond. Under social work research ethics, when is the use of deception acceptable?

- **A.** When the study's value justifies it, no other approach would work and review boards approve
- **B.** When the findings will be published only in summary form, with no individual results shown
- **C.** When participants are told in the consent form that they can withdraw at any time they wish
- **D.** When the risk to participants is minimal and all data are collected without any identifiers

18. Abena, 44, came to a family service agency overwhelmed by several problems. With her social worker she listed four of them and chose to start with an overdue electric bill. They are using a structured problem-solving approach. What should the worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Help her list every problem she is facing so none of them is overlooked
- **B.** Help her state the bill problem and her goal for it in concrete terms
- **C.** Brainstorm as many ways to handle the electric bill as she can think of
- **D.** Choose one action she can take on the bill before their next meeting

19. A Head Start teacher tells the social worker that 4-year-old Kenji talks to himself constantly while doing puzzles, saying things like "No, the blue piece goes here first." She wonders whether something is wrong. From Vygotsky's perspective, this behavior is BEST understood as

- **A.** egocentric speech showing he cannot yet take others' perspectives
- **B.** a coping habit he uses to calm his anxiety during difficult tasks
- **C.** private speech that he uses to plan and direct his own actions

20. An LMSW at an outpatient clinic is completing an intake with Elena Popescu, 50, who moved from Romania three years ago and speaks fluent English. Elena hesitates when asked about her symptoms and keeps asking whether her answers are 'correct.' The social worker plans to use the CFI. How should the social worker begin?

- **A.** Explain that the aim is to learn her own view, so no answer is wrong
- **B.** Offer an interpreter in case she is more at ease in Romanian
- **C.** Start with questions about her home country, faith and background

21. Esperanza, 16, tells the school social worker she has been missing school two or three days a week to care for her siblings, ages 3 and 5, because her mother started working night shifts and sleeps during the day. Esperanza wants to attend school and graduate, and her mother wants that too. What is the BEST action?

- **A.** Refer the family to the attendance officer for a formal truancy conference
- **B.** Work with Esperanza and her mother on child care options and a schedule that lets her attend
- **C.** Enroll her in the district's online credit-recovery program so she can complete work from home

22. A social worker at a primary care practice has only a few minutes to gauge how ready Benjamin, 60, feels to cut down on his drinking. Which approach is BEST for a quick, client-centered assessment of his readiness to change?

- **A.** Ask him to rate his readiness from 0 to 10 and explain his number
- **B.** Give him the AUDIT to measure the severity of his drinking pattern
- **C.** Give him a 32-item stages of change questionnaire and score it

23. Ethan, 8, has become irritable, clingy, and defiant at school since his father deployed overseas two months ago. His mother says he was easygoing before, and he asks often when his father will return. What is the MOST likely explanation for Ethan's behavior?

- **A.** A stress reaction to the deployment and the changes it brought at home
- **B.** Normal limit testing that is typical of children in middle childhood
- **C.** Behavior learned from new classmates during the current school year
- **D.** Separation anxiety disorder centered on his relationship with his mother

24. Three weeks into a service plan focused on finding employment, Olumide, 38, tells his case manager that his mother has moved in with him after a stroke and he is now her main caregiver. He says job searching feels impossible right now. What should the case manager do?

- **A.** Revisit the plan with Olumide to reflect his new caregiving role
- **B.** Keep the employment goals and add caregiver respite to support them
- **C.** Pause the plan until his mother's care needs have been stabilized

25. Bianca, 31, a nurse seen at an outpatient mental health clinic for social anxiety, has identified the thought 'If I speak up in staff meetings, everyone will think I'm stupid.' She says she believes it about 90 percent and cannot imagine speaking up yet. Using Beck's cognitive approach, what is the BEST next step?

- **A.** Plan a behavioral experiment in which she makes one comment at next week's meeting
- **B.** Use guided questions to help her weigh the evidence for and against the thought
- **C.** Use the downward arrow technique to uncover the core belief beneath the thought

26. A social work researcher finds that Latina engineering students score lower on a design test when told beforehand that it measures "innate technical ability," but score the same as other students when the same test is described as a practice exercise. Which concept BEST explains this pattern?

- **A.** Internalized oppression
- **B.** Intersectionality
- **C.** Stereotype threat
- **D.** Double jeopardy

27. Tariq Ahmed, 27, scores in the moderate range on the GAD-7 during intake at a university counseling center. He says his worry and restlessness began three weeks ago, when exams started and he began drinking four or five energy drinks a day. What is the BEST interpretation of the GAD-7 result?

- **A.** It flags anxiety symptoms whose cause needs fuller assessment
- **B.** It supports a provisional diagnosis of generalized anxiety disorder
- **C.** It should be set aside until he has cut back on energy drinks

28. Ethan, 29, tells a social worker at a college counseling center that for about three years his mood has shifted between stretches of feeling energetic and confident and stretches of feeling low and unmotivated. None of these periods has met full criteria for a hypomanic or major depressive episode, but the shifts strain his relationships. Which diagnosis is MOST likely?

- **A.** Cyclothymic disorder
- **B.** Bipolar II disorder
- **C.** Borderline personality disorder

29. An LMSW at a rural family agency is working with Mr. Whitehorse, 63, who shows an unusual pattern of hoarding and grief. She wants advice from a former professor in another state who specializes in hoarding. Mr. Whitehorse has not been asked about consultation. What is the MOST appropriate way to proceed?

- **A.** Ask for his consent and then send the professor the full case record
- **B.** Consult only colleagues within the agency, to keep the case in-house
- **C.** Hold off on consulting until he signs a release naming the professor
- **D.** Describe the relevant facts, leaving out details that would identify him

30. A social worker using Bowen family therapy with Ji-ho and Daniel, a couple in their forties, notices that each partner keeps turning to her and asking her to agree that the other is being unreasonable. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Offer her own view of the disagreement to help them reach a compromise
- **B.** Stay calm and neutral and ask each partner about his own part in the pattern
- **C.** Have them turn to each other and work out the conflict directly in session

31. Abebe Tesfaye, 70, lives with his son's family and is referred to an aging services program for low mood after his wife's death eight months ago. Using the CFI, the social worker asks about supports. Abebe says members of his church bring meals, but he feels like a burden to his son. What should the social worker explore NEXT?

- **A.** What feeling like a burden means to him in his family's culture
- **B.** Whether his grief has lasted long enough to suggest a disorder
- **C.** How often church members visit and whether more meals would help
- **D.** How his son's family sees his place in their household now

32. Hannah Brooks, 38, has major depression and reports passive thoughts of death but no plan, intent, or past attempts. She lives with a supportive partner, has stored her firearm outside the home, and is willing to attend treatment. After three months of weekly outpatient therapy, her symptoms have worsened and she has missed two weeks of work. Which level of care is MOST appropriate?

- **A.** Continued weekly outpatient therapy with an updated safety plan
- **B.** An intensive outpatient or partial hospital program
- **C.** Voluntary admission to an inpatient psychiatric unit

33. Oksana Kovalenko, an LMSW at a small refugee resettlement nonprofit, finds that the executive director has been diverting client rent assistance funds to cover office expenses. The agency has no compliance officer, and the director oversees all staff. What should Oksana do FIRST?

- **A.** Raise her concerns directly with the executive director and ask for an explanation
- **B.** Report the agency to the federal funder before telling anyone within the organization
- **C.** Bring her documented concerns to the board of directors, which oversees the director
- **D.** Ask her coworkers to sign a joint letter of concern before taking any other steps

34. Mr. Nguyen, 62, who is Deaf and uses ASL, arrives at a county social services office for a scheduled eligibility assessment. His 15-year-old daughter, who signs fluently, has come along, and the receptionist suggests she interpret. Mr. Nguyen reads some English. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Use written notes for the assessment, since he reads some English
- **B.** Ask Mr. Nguyen whether he would like his daughter to interpret
- **C.** Arrange a qualified ASL interpreter at no cost to Mr. Nguyen

35. Ji-woo, an LMSW at a refugee resettlement agency, has been staying late to help one family with paperwork and has started answering their texts on weekends. She is the only caseworker who speaks the family's language. She tells her supervisor that the family's story resembles her own family's migration. Which supervisory response is MOST appropriate?

A. Explore her reactions to the family and agree on limits for after-hours contact
B. Reassign the family to another caseworker to protect objectivity
C. Set a rule limiting her contact with the family to work hours

36. Keisha, 14, has missed eleven days of school this semester, nearly all of them Mondays and Fridays. Her grades were good last year. District policy requires a family meeting before any truancy referral is filed. The assistant principal asks the school social worker to handle the situation. What should the social worker do FIRST?

A. File a truancy referral with the district attendance office
B. Meet with Keisha and her family to learn what is behind the pattern of absences
C. Set up an attendance contract with Keisha that offers rewards for each full week attended
D. Ask her teachers whether they have noticed changes in her behavior or mood

37. Kwame, 38, a sales manager, tells a social worker at his employee assistance program that he feels stifled by a boss who once championed him. He wants to be fully his own authority, gain recognition as a senior figure, and stop answering to others. Which concept from Levinson BEST explains this pattern?

A. Generativity as he turns his focus toward guiding others
B. The midlife transition as he questions his whole life structure
C. Entering the adult world as he builds a first adult structure
D. Becoming one's own man near the end of settling down

38. Rosa Delgado, LMSW, works at a county food assistance program. A new intake rule requires proof of a home address. Since it took effect, several people experiencing homelessness have been turned away. Rosa believes the rule is unjust. What should she do FIRST?

A. Refer unhoused applicants to nearby pantries that do not require proof of address
B. File a complaint with the state agency that oversees the program's federal funding
C. Document who is being turned away and ask leadership to revise the address rule
D. Ask a legal aid attorney whether the rule conflicts with federal program requirements

39. A quality reviewer at a community mental health center tells Kofi, an LMSW, that his progress notes describe each session in detail but say little about progress on the goals in his clients' service plans. Most of those goals concern housing, employment, and family contact. What change would BEST address the reviewer's concern?

A. Tie each note's assessment to the specific goals in the client's service plan.
B. Add a standardized symptom score to each note to track change over time.
C. Switch from narrative notes to a DAP format with a brief data section.
D. Add the client's own description of progress, in her words, to each session note.

40. An LMSW in a county child welfare agency's evaluation unit learns from a simple count of reports by ethnicity that Latino families are reported for neglect at much higher rates than other families, and that most of these reports come from one hospital. The director asks for a recommendation. What should the social worker do FIRST?

A. Present the findings to the hospital's leadership and request a joint review
B. Recommend implicit bias training for the hospital staff who make most reports
C. Break down the reports by source and decision point to see where gaps arise
D. Propose an advisory group of Latino families to guide the agency's response

41. Leila Haddad, 29, is in behavioral activation for depression. After a week of activity monitoring, her records show her mood rises after phone calls with her sister and drops after long periods scrolling her phone in bed. She wants to feel better on weekends. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Help her schedule set times on weekends for calls with her sister.
- **B.** Ask her to give up phone use in bed until her mood has improved.
- **C.** Explore her feelings about her relationship with her sister.

42. An LMSW in a child welfare research unit notices that little is known about how young people aging out of foster care decide whether to stay in extended foster care past age 18. She wants to interview youth, compare their accounts as data come in and build an explanation of the decision process from the data. Which approach BEST fits her plan?

- **A.** Phenomenology
- **B.** Quasi-experimental design
- **C.** Narrative case study
- **D.** Grounded theory

43. Mr. Kiplagat, 37, comes to a walk-in crisis center after losing his job and receiving an eviction notice on the same day. The social worker has assessed his safety, finding no suicidal or homicidal thoughts, and has established rapport. Following Roberts' seven-stage crisis intervention model, what should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Work with him to develop a concrete action plan for housing and job searching
- **B.** Explore his feelings about the losses and offer validation and support
- **C.** Help him identify the major problems and the events that set off the crisis
- **D.** Generate and explore alternative ways he might cope with the situation

44. An agency director asks a social worker to draft a proposal for a foundation grant. The request for proposals funds youth substance use prevention, but the agency's program mainly provides outpatient treatment to teens who already use substances. The guidelines are unclear about whether early intervention qualifies, and the deadline is a month away. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Submit the treatment proposal with a section linking it to prevention
- **B.** Redesign a small early intervention component to fit the prevention focus
- **C.** Recommend that the agency skip this cycle and seek a treatment funder
- **D.** Contact the program officer to ask whether early intervention qualifies

45. Paulo, 34, has stable housing, steady income, and a close circle of friends and family. He tells a career counselor at a community agency that he wants a promotion mainly so that colleagues will finally recognize his skill and he can feel proud of his work. In Maslow's hierarchy, which description BEST fits the need Paulo is describing?

- **A.** Developing one's talents and potential while acting from one's own values
- **B.** Living in a stable, predictable environment that is free from threat
- **C.** Earning recognition, status, and respect from others for one's accomplishments

46. At weekly team meetings in a reentry program, staff routinely refer to participants as 'offenders' and to those who return to jail as 'frequent flyers.' The same terms appear in case notes that participants can request. Leila Haddad, LMSW, recently joined the team, which is open to discussing practice issues at its meetings. What should Leila do FIRST?

- **A.** Ask the program director to add person-first language to the agency's documentation policy
- **B.** Use person-first language consistently herself so that colleagues can follow her lead
- **C.** Raise the terms at the next team meeting and propose using person-first language

47. Olumide, an LMSW at a community mental health center, is assigned by his supervisor to lead a dialectical behavior therapy skills group starting next month. He has read about DBT but has no training or supervised experience in it. Another clinician at the center has led DBT groups for several years. What should Olumide do?

- **A.** Lead the group using a published DBT skills manual as his guide
- **B.** Decline the assignment because DBT falls outside his competence
- **C.** Lead the group and attend DBT training once the first cycle ends
- **D.** Explain his limited training and ask about training or co-leading

48. A hospital social worker completes an ecomap with Mr. Okafor, 84, before his discharge home. It shows a strong connection to his church, a stressful connection to his son, and no connections to home health or transportation services. His physician expects him to need help at home and rides to follow-up visits. What does this ecomap MOST clearly suggest for discharge planning?

- **A.** Asking his son to provide rides and help at home after discharge
- **B.** Asking his church to arrange rides to his medical appointments
- **C.** Exploring a short rehabilitation stay before he returns home
- **D.** Linking him to home health and transportation services

49. Members of the Pham family describe a pattern in which, for three generations, adults have stopped speaking to relatives after disagreements. Now the father has suddenly lost his job. In Carter and McGoldrick's model, how is the generational pattern of cutoffs BEST described?

- **A.** A horizontal unpredictable stressor
- **B.** A horizontal developmental stressor
- **C.** A vertical stressor
- **D.** A first-order change

50. Tomás, 44, has two children. His wife, who died eight months ago, managed the household finances and the children's schedules. He tells the social worker at a family service agency that he has grieved deeply but is overwhelmed by unpaid bills and missed school events. Which Worden task is MOST central to his current difficulty?

- **A.** Accepting the reality of the loss
- **B.** Processing the pain of grief
- **C.** Adjusting to a world without the deceased
- **D.** Finding an enduring connection with the deceased

51. Mei Lin, 30, is seeing a social worker at a counseling agency after separating from her husband. Midway through a session, right after saying she worries the worker will judge her for leaving, she asks, "Have you ever been divorced?" The social worker has been divorced. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Say that you have been divorced, then return the focus to her worries.
- **B.** Say that you keep personal history private, then return to her concerns.
- **C.** Share briefly how you coped with your own divorce to offer her hope.
- **D.** Ask what knowing the answer would mean to her before deciding to share.

52. A crisis shelter's policy requires residents to leave the building during daytime hours. LMSW Hamid notices that Ofelia, 63, who had surgery last week, can barely walk. The shelter director can approve exceptions to the policy. Without telling anyone, Hamid lets Ofelia stay in the common room each day. Which statement BEST evaluates Hamid's action?

- **A.** It was justified, since the Code ranks client need above agency rules
- **B.** It was acceptable, since he used professional discretion to protect her
- **C.** It broke policy, so Ofelia should now be required to follow the rule
- **D.** It met her need, but he should have sought an exception openly

53. A social worker in an aging services agency is planning an eight-week support group for older adults widowed within the past year. She has ten referrals and room for eight. The referrals vary in how they are coping: some are isolated, some are busy with family, and some are already back at volunteer work. Which composition principle should guide her MOST?

- **A.** Choose members at a similar point in grief so they progress together
- **B.** Choose members whose losses differ widely to broaden the discussion
- **C.** Choose members who share the loss but differ in how they are coping

54. A hospital social worker using the life model meets Bao, 45, a restaurant owner newly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis who must cut back his work hours. Which type of life stressor in the life model does Bao's situation MOST clearly represent?

- **A.** A difficult life transition and traumatic life event
- **B.** An environmental pressure from social and physical settings
- **C.** A developmental crisis tied to his stage of the life cycle
- **D.** A dysfunctional pattern in his interpersonal processes

55. LMSW Ji-ho runs a bereavement program at a hospice. The marketing department asks him to request written endorsements from family members now in the bereavement program whose loved ones died in the past month, for use in a brochure. Several families have praised the program in satisfaction surveys. What should Ji-ho do?

- **A.** Request endorsements but make clear families may decline without consequence
- **B.** Ask families for permission to use comments from their satisfaction surveys
- **C.** Request endorsements only from families who rated the program highly
- **D.** Decline, since recently bereaved families are vulnerable to undue influence

56. Sofía Navarro, an LMSW, raises concerns with her agency's compliance officer and board chair that the executive director has been billing Medicaid for home visits that never took place. Nothing changes. She then gives her documentation to the state Medicaid fraud control unit. A coworker says Sofía is advocating for the agency's clients. Which term BEST describes her action?

- **A.** Case advocacy
- **B.** Cause advocacy
- **C.** Whistleblowing

57. Leila Haddad, 37, agreed to have a session recorded for her LMSW's supervision. The day after the session, she calls and says she has changed her mind and wants the recording destroyed. The supervisor has not yet reviewed it. What should the LMSW do?

- **A.** Keep the recording secure until her next session so the two can discuss it
- **B.** Delete the recording under agency procedure and note her withdrawal of consent
- **C.** Explore her reasons for changing her mind before deciding how to proceed
- **D.** Offer to let her listen to the recording first so she can make a final choice

58. Dmitri Volkov, who works at a local hardware store, calls the social worker who runs a substance use recovery group. He says he thinks his coworker attends the group and wants to know whether that is true so he can support him. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Confirm attendance only, since the caller wants to offer his support
- **B.** Ask for the coworker's name to check whether he has signed a release
- **C.** Explain that she cannot confirm or deny whether any person attends
- **D.** Give Dmitri information on family and friend support groups such as Al-Anon

59. A county human services department has five regional offices with very different caseload sizes. The evaluator wants a client survey in which each office's share of respondents is guaranteed to match its share of the county's total caseload. Which approach is BEST?

- **A.** Randomly select an equal number of clients from each of the five offices
- **B.** Randomly select clients within each office in proportion to its caseload
- **C.** Randomly select two offices and survey every client served by those offices
- **D.** Randomly select 300 clients from one combined list of all offices' clients

60. An LMSW at a community clinic hears about an AI note-taking app that records sessions and drafts progress notes. She thinks it would save time. The clinic has not reviewed the app's security, and her clients have not been told about it. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Use the app only with clients who give written consent to the recording
- **B.** Get a business associate agreement from the vendor and then begin
- **C.** Use the app only after clinic approval and clients' informed consent

61. Ms. Delacroix tells a family counselor that she adores her 15-year-old daughter, rarely says no, lets her set her own curfew and bedtime, and avoids enforcing rules because she does not want to upset her. Which parenting style does this BEST describe?

- **A.** Permissive
- **B.** Authoritarian
- **C.** Authoritative
- **D.** Uninvolved

Section 2 Questions 62-122

62. Ava, 15, asks the social worker at a school-based health center for counseling about anxiety and does not want her parents told. The center is in a state that allows minors 14 and older to consent to outpatient mental health counseling without parental consent. Ava is calm and reports no safety concerns. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Obtain her parents' consent, since they are responsible for her health care
- **B.** Obtain Ava's consent and review the limits of confidentiality before starting
- **C.** Complete a standardized anxiety screening before discussing consent with her
- **D.** Ask Ava to sign a release so her parents can be told about attendance only

63. An LMSW at an aging services agency is assigned several Hmong elders, a community she knows little about. Most of the elders speak Hmong, and adult children often join meetings. She wants to serve them well. What is the BEST way for her to build cultural competence?

- **A.** Ask each elder's adult children to explain Hmong customs at the first meeting
- **B.** Seek training and consultation on the community and learn each elder's own views
- **C.** Ask her supervisor to reassign the elders to a worker who speaks Hmong
- **D.** Read research on Hmong health beliefs and plan services around its findings

64. Victor, 52, asks to see his counseling record at a community agency. The record includes information his sister gave the social worker by phone after asking that Victor never learn she had called. Agency procedures let workers redact third-party information themselves, and the social worker has no concern that the rest of the record would harm Victor. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Provide the record, withholding the information his sister gave in confidence.
- **B.** Delay access until the sister is asked whether her information may be shared.
- **C.** Refer the request to agency counsel because the record names a relative.
- **D.** Provide the full record, since the sister's report concerns his own care.

65. During an insurance audit, Rachel Stein, an LMSW at a group practice, is asked which of her documentation counts as psychotherapy notes under HIPAA. She keeps several kinds of records about each client, some in the electronic record and some in a separate locked file. Which material qualifies as psychotherapy notes?

- **A.** Results of clinical tests and the medications the client has been prescribed
- **B.** A summary of the client's diagnosis, current symptoms, and treatment plan
- **C.** Session start and stop times and the treatment modality used in each session
- **D.** Her notes analyzing session content, kept apart from the rest of the record

66. Shanice and her son Amari, 7, recently moved from another state and are staying in a family shelter. The neighborhood school told her it cannot enroll Amari until she shows proof of a permanent address. Amari has missed three days of school. What should the shelter social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Help Shanice file a written enrollment dispute with the school district
- **B.** Contact the district's homeless education liaison to resolve the enrollment
- **C.** Help arrange transportation so Amari can return to his school of origin
- **D.** Ask the shelter's attorney to send the school a letter citing federal law

67. Thandiwe, a unit supervisor at a child protective services agency, is planning onboarding for three new LMSW caseworkers. Past new workers had one week of classroom training and then a full caseload. In exit interviews, they said the training made little sense until they saw real cases, and several left after feeling overwhelmed by full caseloads in week two. Which onboarding approach is BEST?

- **A.** Add field shadowing to the classroom week, then assign a full caseload
- **B.** Extend classroom training to three weeks before assigning any cases
- **C.** Combine classroom work with shadowing and a gradually growing caseload
- **D.** Assign full caseloads right away and hold daily supportive check-ins

68. Gloria Mendez, an LMSW, returned to practice at a community agency after eight years away raising her children. In team meetings she notices that colleagues refer to treatment approaches and privacy rules she does not recognize. What should Gloria do?

- **A.** Pursue continuing education and supervision to update her knowledge
- **B.** Limit her caseload to familiar presenting problems until she feels current
- **C.** Ask colleagues to share their notes on the newer approaches as cases arise
- **D.** Request a reduced caseload until she completes a postgraduate certificate

69. Linda Garcia, 45, retired from the Army as a sergeant after 20 years, starts counseling at a community agency for sleep problems. In the first session she says, 'Civilians don't really get military life.' The LMSW has never served. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Explain the agency's training in military culture and its veteran services.
- **B.** Acknowledge she has not served and ask what Linda would want her to know.
- **C.** Ask about her sleep problems and return to her comment if it comes up again.
- **D.** Refer her to a Vet Center, where many staff members are veterans themselves.

70. A community center's programs are based on a needs assessment done six years ago. Since then, the neighborhood has gained many young families from Central America, few of whom use the center, and lost many older residents. The board asks the program director, a social worker, how to redesign services. What should she recommend FIRST?

- **A.** Conduct a new needs assessment of the neighborhood as it is today
- **B.** Survey current participants about which services they value most
- **C.** Update the old assessment's figures with the latest census data
- **D.** Adopt the program model a nearby agency launched last year

71. Daniel Okafor, an LMSW at a hospice, finds that respecting a dying client's wish to keep his diagnosis from his adult son conflicts with Daniel's sense that honest family relationships would help both of them. He has reviewed the Code's standards and agency policy, and neither settles the conflict. A colleague says the Code itself tells him which value comes first. How should Daniel proceed?

- **A.** Resolve it with the decision screen the Code adopts, which ranks protection of life first
- **B.** Resolve it by the order of the Code's sections, which places duties to clients first
- **C.** Resolve it with informed judgment and consultation, since the Code does not rank values

72. Deshawn, an LMSW, consults a senior colleague about whether to involve a client's school in a safety plan for a 16-year-old. The consultation shapes his decision to request the teen's consent to contact the school counselor. What should Deshawn do after the consultation?

- **A.** Document the consultation and how it informed his decision.
- **B.** Ask the consultant to write her recommendation in the client's record.
- **C.** Document his decision and the teen's response to the consent request.

73. Nguyen Van Minh, 52, who immigrated from Vietnam 20 years ago, is referred to a community mental health center by his physician for 'depression.' The referral note lists his symptoms and a PHQ-9 score of 16 from last week. In the first session he says he feels no sadness, only fatigue, headaches and 'weak nerves,' and he does not understand why he was sent to a counselor. What is the BEST next step?

- **A.** Call his physician to ask what led to the referral for depression
- **B.** Ask him how he understands these symptoms and what help he expects
- **C.** Explain how depression can show up as fatigue, headaches and pain
- **D.** Repeat the PHQ-9 to see how his symptoms compare with last week

74. Bethany Ross, LMSW, notices that a new program brochure at her county agency lists a staff member as a 'clinical social worker.' The staff member has a psychology degree and no social work degree or license. The state protects the social work title. What should Bethany do FIRST?

- **A.** Report the staff member to the licensing board for misuse of the title
- **B.** Ask agency counsel whether the brochure violates the title protection law
- **C.** Raise the inaccurate title with the program manager so it can be corrected

75. Lena, 35, has recurrent depression and attends a peer-run support group at a community mental health center. Members keep mentioning their Wellness Recovery Action Plans, and she asks her peer specialist what a WRAP is. Which description BEST fits a WRAP?

- **A.** A self-written plan of daily wellness tools, triggers, warning signs and crisis steps
- **B.** A signed legal document stating her treatment choices if she later lacks capacity
- **C.** A brief plan listing warning signs, coping steps and contacts for a suicidal crisis

76. Keisha, 24, is seeing a White LMSW at a community mental health center for anxiety. In the second session she says, "I'm not sure someone like you can understand what I deal with as a Black woman, and right now I only feel safe in Black spaces." She has not asked to change workers. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Name the racial difference and ask what feels unsafe about working together
- **B.** Ask whether she would prefer to transfer to a Black clinician at the agency
- **C.** Suggest adding a Black women's support group to her current treatment
- **D.** Describe the worker's training and experience with racial stress and trauma

77. During an agency merger, staff hear rumors of layoffs. Leadership has told program managers they may share the merger timeline and that no decisions about positions have been made. Mei Ling, an LMSW program manager, has received no other information. Her team asks her directly what is going on. What is her BEST response?

- **A.** Tell staff she will ask leadership what she may share and report back
- **B.** Tell staff that leadership will try hard to avoid any layoffs
- **C.** Share the timeline and that no position decisions have been made

78. Sgt. Ruiz, 48, a veteran living in a rural area, sees an LMSW at a community clinic. He reports occasional suicidal thoughts without a plan and says that in a hard moment he would rather talk to someone who understands military life. What is the BEST addition to his safety plan?

- **A.** 988, which connects callers to a nearby crisis center
- **B.** The Veterans Crisis Line, reached by dialing 988 and pressing 1
- **C.** The walk-in clinic at the VA medical center two hours away

79. Henry, 58, has type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. At a federally qualified health center, he tells the supervised LMSW that he has had erection difficulties for eight months and feels ashamed. He has not mentioned it to his physician. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Teach him sensate focus exercises to lower his performance anxiety
- **B.** Encourage him to see his physician for a medical evaluation
- **C.** Explore stress or conflict in his relationship that may contribute
- **D.** Give him information on how erections commonly change with age

80. After a factory explosion kills several workers, LMSW Gustavo, who has a private practice, wants to help the grieving families and offer reduced-fee grief counseling. The county has opened a family assistance center that coordinates volunteer counselors and makes referrals. Families have not contacted Gustavo. What should Gustavo do?

- **A.** Ask local funeral homes to give his card to each victim's family
- **B.** Volunteer his services through the county's family assistance center
- **C.** Mail a letter offering reduced-fee grief counseling to each family
- **D.** Offer free grief sessions to families he meets at the public vigil

81. Jasmine Torres, 32, has been on methadone for eight months at an opioid treatment program. She tells her counselor that she used heroin twice last weekend after a fight with her partner. She says her dose holds her all day, she has had no cravings since, and this is her first use in eight months. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Explore with her whether a higher level of care would help right now.
- **B.** Suggest she ask her prescriber whether her methadone dose is adequate.
- **C.** Review the program's policy on continued use and drug screening.
- **D.** Explore what led to the use and update her relapse prevention plan.

82. Dimitri, an LMSW, is drafting a logic model for a home visiting program for first-time parents. One entry reads: "Nurses and social workers conduct weekly home visits using a structured parenting curriculum." In which logic model component does this entry belong?

- **A.** Inputs
- **B.** Activities
- **C.** Outcomes
- **D.** Outputs

83. At a college counseling center, Rahul Mehta, 19, has described feeling worthless since failing two classes. In response to an open question about how he has been coping, he adds, "Sometimes I think everyone would be better off without me." He has not yet been asked about suicide. What should the social worker ask NEXT?

- **A.** Have you thought about how you would end your life?
- **B.** Have you been having thoughts of killing yourself lately?
- **C.** What do you mean when you say they would be better off?

84. In the first session with the Lee family, the father answers every question for the others, the family members are guarded, and the worker has not yet built any rapport with them. Which structural family therapy technique BEST fits this point in the work?

- **A.** Asking the parents to discuss a household rule together while the worker watches
- **B.** Siding with the son for a while to shift the family's balance of power
- **C.** Following the father's lead on who speaks and adopting the family's pace

85. School social worker Priya Raman reads a study that surveyed 3,000 teens once during one school year. Teens who reported more daily social media use also reported higher anxiety, and the link was statistically significant after controlling for age and gender. A parent group asks her whether the study shows that social media causes anxiety. What is the MOST accurate answer?

- **A.** It shows that heavy use leads to anxiety, since use was measured a year before anxiety
- **B.** It shows only chance variation, since the link was not statistically significant
- **C.** It shows a link, but not whether use leads to anxiety or anxiety leads to use
- **D.** It shows that use causes anxiety, since the analysis controlled for age and gender

86. Rosalind Okafor, 41, receives services at an outpatient program and asks for a copy of her full record. After consultation, her treatment team has compelling evidence that one portion, a detailed collateral report about her childhood abuse, would cause her serious harm if she read it now. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Release the full record and schedule a session to go through the abuse report with her.
- **B.** Postpone release of the full record until she and the team can review it together.
- **C.** Release the record except that report, and note in the file why it was withheld.
- **D.** Release the full record after the collateral source consents to sharing that report.

87. A social worker is forming an eight-week education group at a community clinic for adults recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and meets with each referred person before the first session. Mr. Tran says he mostly wants help coping with his recent job loss and says little about his diabetes. What should the worker do?

- **A.** Discuss whether this group fits his goals and what other help he may need
- **B.** Enroll him, since members often raise other topics as trust grows
- **C.** Teach him basic self-care skills so he is ready for the group sessions
- **D.** Ask him to agree to focus on diabetes topics once the group begins

88. Rosa, 30, is working toward reunification with her children through a child welfare plan. The LMSW providing her counseling has seen real progress but also knows Rosa missed two supervised visits this month. The court has asked the LMSW to report on Rosa's progress, including her participation in visits. How should she write the report?

- **A.** Report Rosa's session attendance and leave conclusions to the caseworker.
- **B.** Describe Rosa's progress in counseling and the missed visits accurately.
- **C.** Report her counseling progress and leave the visits to the visit supervisor.
- **D.** Describe her progress in detail so the report reflects her recent gains.

89. Diego, 14, has refused to go to school for three days since a breakout of acne. He tells the school social worker that "everyone will be staring at my face all day" and that classmates will talk about nothing else. He has no history of school refusal, enjoyed giving class presentations last month, and says he feels fine around his friends after school. Which concept BEST explains Diego's belief?

- **A.** The imaginary audience
- **B.** The personal fable
- **C.** Identity diffusion
- **D.** Social anxiety disorder

90. In a rural area where bartering is common, an LMSW in a small group practice accepted Mr. Haugen's offer to repair the practice's fence in exchange for counseling, after informed consent. The repairs are now weeks late, and the worker notices she feels irritated with him during sessions. Mr. Haugen says he is happy with the deal. What should the worker do?

- **A.** Reassess whether the barter is harming their relationship and change it if so
- **B.** Ask Mr. Haugen to sign a statement confirming he is satisfied with the deal
- **C.** Ask the practice manager to confirm the barter fits the practice's fee policy

91. In a hospital diabetes education program, Mr. Bello, 60, recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, agreed at the start of the visit to talk about food. He says, 'I don't need to change how I eat. My father ate like this and lived to 85.' He has not asked for information. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Accept that he is not ready and move on to his questions about medication
- **B.** Reflect his view and ask what he has noticed about his own health lately
- **C.** Explain how his diabetes changes his risk compared with his father's history

92. In a grief support group at a community agency, Mei, 55, sobs while describing her son's death, and the group is silent afterward. According to Yalom, which follow-up by the leader would make this moment MOST therapeutic?

- **A.** Invite Mei to keep sharing memories of her son while the group listens
- **B.** Ask Mei and the members what hearing and sharing this was like for them
- **C.** Allow a moment of quiet, then check in with Mei privately after group

93. A social worker helps tenants of several neglected buildings organize a rent strike against a large property management company that has ignored repair requests for more than a year. In Rothman's social action model, how is the power structure BEST viewed?

- **A.** As an external target whose interests conflict with those of residents
- **B.** As the employers or sponsors who define the problem to be addressed
- **C.** As a set of partners to be engaged through shared community interests
- **D.** As neutral officials who will respond once residents' needs are documented

94. Olav Nilsen, 79, is ready for discharge after a stroke. He has decision-making capacity, walks with a walker, and needs help bathing but has no remaining skilled nursing needs. The team agrees that either assisted living or his own home with daily home health aide visits would meet his needs safely. His daughter prefers assisted living, and Mr. Nilsen wants to go home. Which plan is MOST appropriate?

- **A.** Recommend assisted living, with staff on site at all hours
- **B.** Plan his return home with daily home health aide visits
- **C.** Recommend a short skilled nursing stay before he goes home

95. A hospital social worker is consulted about Amira, 11 months old, who has a small bruise in the middle of her forehead. Her parents say she pulled herself up on the coffee table yesterday and bumped her head when she let go. Amira cruises along furniture, has no other marks, and her prior visits and growth are normal. Which understanding is MOST accurate?

- **A.** A facial bruise in a child under one year is a sentinel injury that calls for a skeletal survey
- **B.** A bruise in an infant this age should prompt a bleeding disorder workup before discharge
- **C.** Any unexplained bruise in an infant this age should be reported, so a report is the next step
- **D.** A forehead bruise fits her mobility and the history, so home safety guidance is appropriate

96. Mr. Petrossian brings his son Aram, 13 months, to a parenting drop-in group. Aram never crawled; he scooted on his bottom and is now pulling up to stand. His cousin walked at 9 months, and Mr. Petrossian fears Aram will fall behind in school. The pediatrician found no concerns at the 12-month visit. Which response from the social worker is MOST accurate?

- **A.** Motor milestones arrive at nearly the same ages in every child, so a check is wise
- **B.** Skipping a stage such as crawling usually signals delays that appear later on
- **C.** Milestones follow a fairly predictable order, but timing varies among children

97. After the 2024 amendments to 42 CFR Part 2, which protection for substance use treatment records still remains in place?

- **A.** Records cannot be used in proceedings against the patient without consent or a court order
- **B.** Records cannot go to another provider unless each disclosure has its own separate consent
- **C.** Records received under a treatment and payment consent cannot be redisclosed by a HIPAA entity

98. Agnieszka, 68, is in home hospice care for advanced lung cancer. She often jokes about her 'fancy new bed' and her nurses' bad coffee. She has also completed her advance directive, said goodbye to her sister, and talks openly about her prognosis. She eats and sleeps well and enjoys visits. A newer staff member asks whether she is 'in denial.' Which response by the social worker is MOST accurate?

- **A.** Her humor is a form of denial that is protecting her and is best left alone
- **B.** Her humor may mask emerging depression that the team should screen for
- **C.** Her humor appears to be a mature defense alongside acceptance of her prognosis

99. A community mental health center has a policy requiring 30 days of sobriety before clients who use substances can begin mental health services. Lauren, 26, who has bipolar disorder and uses cannabis daily, is denied services under this policy. A social worker on the quality improvement committee is asked whether the policy reflects best practice. Which recommendation is MOST consistent with current evidence?

- **A.** Shorten the requirement to seven days so clients can begin treatment sooner
- **B.** Replace the requirement with services that address both conditions in one plan
- **C.** Keep the requirement but refer clients to substance use treatment while they wait
- **D.** Keep the requirement for clients whose symptoms cannabis is known to worsen

100. On an inpatient unit, Marcus, 24, tells the social worker, "I need to call my mom, mom's apple pie, pie charts at my job, I'm going to be the boss, boss of the world." The words come quickly, and each idea links to the one before it. How should this be documented?

- **A.** Loose associations
- **B.** Perseveration
- **C.** Flight of ideas

101. Omar, 35, is in outpatient substance use treatment and drinks daily. He wants to focus only on restarting his music career and becomes irritated when drinking comes up. He has not said whether he thinks drinking affects his music. Which approach BEST applies the strengths perspective?

- **A.** Explain that his drinking must be addressed before working on career goals
- **B.** Ask how drinking fits with the music career he is working toward
- **C.** Help him identify drinking triggers connected to music venues and gigs
- **D.** Focus on his music goals for now and revisit drinking when he raises it

102. A social worker at a family service agency drafts a contract with Adebayo Okonkwo, 50, who wants help finding work after a layoff. The draft states his goal, the tasks he will complete, and the tasks the worker will complete. Their supervisor reviews it and says one core contract element is missing. Which element should be added?

- **A.** A list of the employers he has already contacted in his search
- **B.** A summary of his work history and the reasons for his layoff
- **C.** The number of sessions and dates for reviewing his progress
- **D.** A description of the theory that will guide their sessions

103. Teresa, 45, made a billing error at work and is sure she will be fired. In session, the social worker asks, "What is the worst that could realistically happen? What is the best? What is most likely? How would you cope with each?" They write her answers on a worksheet during the session; no task outside the session is planned. Which technique is the social worker using?

- **A.** Cost-benefit analysis
- **B.** Behavioral experiment
- **C.** Decatastrophizing

104. Amara, 5 months old, has been in a foster home for two weeks. Her foster mother tells the child welfare worker that when she hides a rattle under a blanket, Amara stops reaching and looks away, as if the toy no longer exists. She asks whether this means Amara is delayed. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Explain that looking for hidden toys usually begins later in the first year
- **B.** Arrange a developmental evaluation because she is not tracking hidden objects
- **C.** Explain that Amara is showing early wariness of unfamiliar caregivers
- **D.** Explain that this behavior suggests Amara has not yet attached to her

105. Lillian Brooks, 84, lives alone and refuses in-home help after a fall. Her physician documented that she understands the risks of refusing and can explain her reasons. Her son tells the aging services social worker, 'Her memory screen showed some problems, so she's incompetent and you need to follow my wishes.' No court has appointed a guardian. Which understanding should guide the social worker?

- **A.** Her son can decide for her because her memory screen showed some deficits
- **B.** She keeps her legal rights, and she has the capacity to make this decision
- **C.** A psychiatrist must rule on her competence before her refusal is honored
- **D.** Her refusal applies to daily matters but not to decisions about her care

106. A community clinic's policy discharges clients who miss three appointments in a row. Gloria, 52, missed three sessions because she was hospitalized for pneumonia and called the clinic as soon as she was discharged. The system has flagged her for discharge, and re-enrolling would place her on a six-week waitlist. What should her social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** File a formal grievance about the attendance policy with the agency board
- **B.** Help her complete a new intake so that she can re-enroll at the earliest date
- **C.** Request an exception from the supervisor and document the hospitalization
- **D.** Propose a revision of the attendance policy at the next staff meeting

107. A family support model has produced similar positive results in randomized studies conducted in urban, rural and tribal communities with families of different backgrounds. A practitioner in a mid-sized town is deciding whether the model will likely work with the families she serves. For her decision, these repeated findings across settings MOST directly strengthen which property of the evidence?

- **A.** External validity
- **B.** Internal validity
- **C.** Inter-rater reliability

108. Owen, a White MSW intern at a community health clinic, tells his supervisor he does not see race and treats all clients exactly the same. In orientation he completed the assigned racial equity readings and a review of the clinic's disparity data, and said neither applied to his own clients. He genuinely wants to do good work. What is the supervisor's BEST response?

- **A.** Assign further readings on color-blind racial attitudes to discuss next week
- **B.** Review the clinic's disparity data with him again in greater detail
- **C.** Ask Owen to walk through recent cases and consider where race may have mattered

109. Raymond Pierce, 45, will be released from state prison in 30 days. He has type 2 diabetes, which is well controlled, and opioid use disorder, for which he receives buprenorphine in prison. Under prison policy, he and his sister will receive naloxone at release. He plans to stay with his sister. Which reentry task should the social worker treat as MOST urgent?

- **A.** Schedule a primary care visit for his diabetes within a month of release
- **B.** Arrange naloxone training for Raymond and his sister before release day
- **C.** Help him apply for food and housing assistance before his release date
- **D.** Arrange for his buprenorphine and coverage to continue without a gap

110. Rosa Jiménez, 76, completed three years of school in rural Guatemala and speaks K'iche' as her first language and Spanish as her second. A hospital staff member gives her the MMSE in Spanish, and she scores in the impaired range. Her family reports that she manages her household, shopping, and finances well. What should the social worker conclude?

- **A.** The score suggests early dementia that her family has not yet noticed
- **B.** The score is valid because the test was given in a language she speaks
- **C.** The score shows impairment that may limit her decision-making capacity
- **D.** The score may reflect schooling and language more than her cognition

111. Rafael Cruz, 34, has been in and out of psychiatric hospitals and says he does not trust "anyone with a badge or a degree." For two months the community mental health team has kept contacts brief and practical, and he now accepts help with food but still avoids clinical staff. The team has a peer specialist with lived experience of hospitalization. Which step is BEST?

- **A.** Ask the team psychiatrist to meet with him to explain treatment options.
- **B.** Offer him a peer specialist whose own recovery may help build trust.
- **C.** Continue brief, practical contacts and wait for him to ask for more.
- **D.** Ask a family member to encourage him to meet with the clinical staff.

112. During a family session at a community mental health center, Zoe, 13, says 'I'm fine' in a shaky voice while staring at the floor. Her parents nod and move on. Using Satir's approach, what is the BEST response?

- **A.** Respect her answer for now and return to her later in the session
- **B.** Ask her parents what they noticed in Zoe's voice when she answered
- **C.** Point out the difference between her words and her voice and ask her about it

113. Aisha, 16, earned the highest score in her health class on a quiz about the dangers of vaping. She tells the school social worker that she knows the risks apply to her and wants to stop, but at parties "it just happens." She has never vaped at home or when alone. Which explanation BEST accounts for the gap between Aisha's knowledge and her behavior?

- **A.** She is in precontemplation and does not yet see vaping as a problem
- **B.** Emotional arousal and peers weaken self-control despite sound reasoning
- **C.** A personal fable leads her to see the risks as applying to others
- **D.** She has not yet reached formal operational thinking about risk

114. Lily, 3, a member of the Navajo Nation, must be placed in foster care. The tribe has not set a different order of preference, and several approved homes, including a relative's, are available. Which placement does ICWA prefer FIRST, absent good cause to deviate?

A. A foster home licensed by the Navajo Nation
B. An Indian foster home licensed by the state
C. The non-Native home she stayed in this week
D. Her maternal aunt, an approved relative

115. An LMSW who plans to report Medicaid fraud at her agency asks what protection she has against retaliation. Which statement is MOST accurate?

A. The NASW Code of Ethics gives her legal protection against job retaliation
B. Some federal and state laws protect such reports, but coverage varies
C. She is protected only if she reports to an outside authority, not internally

116. A school social worker assessing Maya Chen, 10, for falling grades has a detailed report from her parents, who describe her as 'doing fine emotionally,' and a teacher report about her classroom behavior. Her parents have already consented to services. The worker still plans to ask Maya directly about sadness and worry. What is the MAIN reason for this?

A. Children report their outward behavior more accurately than adults
B. Children's self-reports stay more stable over time than adult reports
C. Children often report inner feelings that adults around them miss
D. Children's own views are needed to obtain their assent to services

117. Alisha Grant, 35, an Army captain, returned home after a nine-month deployment. While she was away, her husband handled discipline and the children's routines. Now the children go to him for permission, and she says she feels like a visitor in her own home. Her VA PTSD screening was negative, and her husband encourages the children to check with her. What is the MOST likely explanation?

A. PTSD-related detachment that is limiting her closeness to the family
B. The family shifted roles during her absence and has not renegotiated them
C. Her husband and the children have formed a coalition that excludes her

118. A hospice social worker runs a pilot of a mindfulness group for family caregivers with 12 volunteers. The volunteers show lower stress scores after the group, but the change is not statistically significant ($p = .21$). She is preparing a summary for her manager. What is the BEST interpretation?

A. The study may have been too small to detect an effect, so the result is inconclusive
B. The group likely has no real effect, since a study this size could detect small changes
C. The group likely reduced stress, since scores fell and only significance was missing
D. The result means there is a 21 percent chance that the group has no effect on stress

119. Priya Natarajan, LMSW, works at a family service agency under clinical supervision. The agency's only EMDR-trained clinician has left, and the program director asks Priya to begin EMDR with Mr. Okoro, who has PTSD. Priya has read two books on EMDR but has no formal training. A colleague trained in cognitive processing therapy has openings now, and Mr. Okoro wants to stay at the agency, where his insurance is accepted. What is the BEST response?

A. Complete the next EMDR training cohort and begin EMDR with Mr. Okoro after finishing it
B. Begin EMDR now with weekly consultation from an EMDR-certified clinician outside the agency
C. Refer Mr. Okoro to an EMDR-trained clinician in private practice in the community
D. Decline to provide EMDR and arrange cognitive processing therapy with her trained colleague

120. Ifeoma Nwosu, 36, a client at a community mental health center, tells her LMSW she wants to stop her antidepressant because of weight gain. Her mood has been stable for several months, and her next appointment with her psychiatric nurse practitioner is in three weeks. She asks whether she should just stop taking it this week. What is the BEST response?

A. Explain the usual side effects of her medication and what signs to watch for

B. Encourage her to talk with her prescriber first and help her plan what to say

C. Support her choice to stop and plan with her how to watch for any mood changes

121. At a benefits office, a worker directs all questions to a blind client's sighted companion instead of to the client, although the client is answering for himself. Which concept BEST describes the worker's behavior?

A. Ageism

B. Classism

C. Stereotype threat

D. Ableism

122. At the start of a scheduled video session, an LMSW sees that her client Hamid, 44, is sitting in a parked car rather than at home, where he usually joins. He explains that his children are home and he wanted privacy. He is not driving and looks calm. Their emergency plan lists his home address. What should the social worker do FIRST?

A. Ask Hamid whether anyone near the car could overhear the session

B. Confirm Hamid's current location before continuing with the session

C. Reschedule the session for a time when Hamid can join from home