SUMMIT
STUDY GUIDES

LMSW

ASWB Masters Practice Exam

Exam 3

122 Questions • Two sections of 61

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 3

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

Section 1 Questions 1-61

1. In his second session, Mr. Bautista, 46, reviews a log he kept this week, which shows his outbursts happen when his teenage sons ignore his requests. He says his anger still "comes out of nowhere" and he is yelling before he knows what happened. He wants to stop. What should the social worker do NEXT?

A. Teach him assertive scripts for telling his sons clearly what he needs from them at home
B. Explore how anger was handled in his own family when he was growing up
C. Help him notice body signals, such as a tight jaw or racing heart, before an outburst
D. Ask him to keep a daily log of the situations in which his outbursts happen

2. Carmen Ortiz is the only social worker at a rural clinic. A client, Jolene, 19, has signs of an eating disorder and is medically stable. The nearest specialist program is three hours away, Jolene cannot travel there, and no telehealth program takes her insurance. The specialist has offered to consult with Carmen. Carmen has little eating disorder training. What is the BEST approach?

A. Serve Jolene while getting training and ongoing consultation from the specialist
B. Refer Jolene to the distant specialist and help her find a way to travel there
C. Treat Jolene with general counseling and have her doctor monitor her weight
D. Decline the case, since eating disorders are beyond Carmen's current training

3. Leon, 23, tells his social worker at a community clinic that he prefers texting to phone calls and would like to text her about appointments and about how he is feeling between sessions. The agency allows texting on its secure system. What should the social worker do?

A. Discuss texting's privacy limits and agree on how they will use it
B. Text with him about scheduling and his mood on the agency's system
C. Limit texts to appointment reminders and keep clinical topics for sessions
D. Ask him to use the agency's patient portal for messages instead of texts

4. Ayasha Redcloud, an LMSW at a residential treatment center for youth, sees staff using a restraint hold that restricts breathing. This morning, the administrator dismissed her concern and said the hold will continue tonight. What should Ayasha do?

A. Take her concern to the agency's board chair today, above the administrator
B. Report the practice now to the state child protection or licensing authority
C. Document each use of the hold and bring the records to the administrator
D. File a complaint with the facility's accrediting body later this week

5. Amina, 26, was resettled as a refugee two months ago. She has nightmares about her family's flight and frequent panic attacks, and she is staying temporarily with another family while she waits for housing. Her supervisor notes that trauma-focused treatment may help in the future. What is the BEST focus now?

A. Trauma-focused CBT, beginning with a detailed account of the family's flight
B. Grief work on the losses of her home, her community, and her country
C. English classes and cultural orientation to speed her adjustment
D. Stable housing, safety, and coping skills for her panic and nightmares

6. During the first year of a pilot school-based mental health program, an evaluator meets with staff each month to share data on referrals, wait times and student feedback. The team uses the data to change intake steps and session scheduling while the program is still developing. No decision about continuing the program is planned until year three. This type of evaluation is BEST described as which of the following?

- **A.** Formative evaluation
- **B.** Impact evaluation
- **C.** Summative evaluation

7. Mr. Lindqvist, 61, a veteran and lifelong hunter, has had suicidal thoughts since his wife's death. He tells the VA social worker, "Nobody's taking my guns out of this house," but agrees they can talk about safety. He has no current plan. What is the BEST approach to firearm safety?

- **A.** Set the firearm topic aside until trust between them is stronger
- **B.** Recommend storing his guns with a relative as the safest choice
- **C.** Discuss locking the guns at home with the key held by someone he trusts

8. Two child welfare social workers independently review the same 30 case files using a structured risk assessment tool. Their risk ratings agree on only about half of the cases. This finding is MOST directly about which property of the tool?

- **A.** Construct validity
- **B.** Inter-rater reliability
- **C.** Test-retest reliability
- **D.** Internal consistency

9. A school social worker meets with Diego, 15, who was referred for failing grades. Diego wants help talking to his teachers about makeup work. Partway through, he says his mother's boyfriend hit him with a belt last night, leaving marks, and that he is afraid to go home after school today. The social worker is a mandated reporter in this state. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Ask Diego for a full account of the incident before deciding to report
- **B.** Notify the principal and let the principal decide whether to report
- **C.** Call child protective services now and say he fears going home today
- **D.** Call Diego's mother to arrange a safe place for him to stay tonight

10. In an aging services intake, Mr. Lindqvist, 71, describes his parents as "perfect, the best," but cannot recall a single specific memory to support this. He says he "never needed anyone" and sees no point in discussing family. Which adult attachment pattern do these responses MOST suggest?

- **A.** Dismissing
- **B.** Preoccupied
- **C.** Secure-autonomous

11. Simone, a social worker at a community mental health center, is curious about a new client who mentioned a popular social media account. She wonders whether she can look it up before their next session. What does the NASW Code of Ethics direct?

- **A.** Avoid searching unless there is a compelling professional reason
- **B.** Search only if the account is public and she documents her reason
- **C.** Ask the client's permission in session and then view the account

12. The parents of Malik, 9, meet with the school social worker. Malik says he is a boy and is happy being a boy, but he likes painting his nails and wearing his sister's sparkly shirts, and some classmates tease him. His parents ask whether this means he is transgender. Which concept BEST describes what the parents are observing?

- **A.** Gender identity
- **B.** Gender expression
- **C.** Sexual orientation
- **D.** Sex assigned at birth

13. A local reporter calls a homeless services agency after a well-known community member, Felipe Cruz, dies on the street during a heat wave. The reporter asks whether Felipe was a client and what services he received. What should the agency social worker do?

- **A.** Confirm that he was a client but decline to describe his services
- **B.** Decline to confirm or discuss whether he received agency services
- **C.** Refer the reporter to the communications office for a statement on him

14. Ash, 26, sees an LMSW at a community mental health center for depression after a breakup. In the third session, Ash mentions being nonbinary and says they have not talked about it much with anyone. Ash has not described any concerns about their gender identity. What should the LMSW do NEXT?

- **A.** Ask Ash whether they would like information about LGBTQ+ community resources.
- **B.** Add exploration of Ash's gender identity as a goal in the treatment plan.
- **C.** Ask Ash whether and how being nonbinary connects to the breakup and depression.
- **D.** Explore with Ash when they first became aware of their gender identity.

15. Dorothy, 81, receives hospice care at home for advanced heart failure and takes a prescribed opioid for pain. During a visit, she tells the hospice social worker that she has started drinking two or three glasses of wine each evening to help her sleep. Which concept is MOST important for the social worker to recognize?

- **A.** Alcohol helps people fall asleep but often disrupts sleep later in the night
- **B.** Alcohol adds to the sedating effect of her medication and can slow breathing
- **C.** Older adults reach higher blood alcohol levels from the same amount of wine
- **D.** Evening drinking may be a way of coping with grief about her declining health

16. Priya, 27, tells her LMSW at an outpatient clinic that she has had several short relationships and pulls away whenever a partner wants a deeper commitment. She says she has a clear sense of who she is and what she values, but she fears losing herself in a relationship. In Erikson's theory, successful resolution of the crisis Priya is facing would produce which virtue?

- **A.** Love
- **B.** Care
- **C.** Fidelity
- **D.** Wisdom

17. Grace Okafor tells a family services social worker that her 14-year-old child, assigned female at birth, has said consistently for two years that he is a boy and now wants to be called Michael. Visibly upset, she asks, "Does this mean my child is a lesbian?" What is the social worker's BEST response?

- **A.** Explain that gender identity and sexual orientation are separate parts of identity
- **B.** Ask how long her child has felt this way and how he has expressed it
- **C.** Refer the family to a gender-affirming clinic for a specialized assessment
- **D.** Invite her to a support group for parents of LGBTQ+ youth in the area

18. Walter Brooks, 80, is in hospice care at home. At a family meeting, his three adult children argue loudly about whether he should move to an inpatient hospice unit. Walter is alert and able to speak for himself. His daughter is named as his health care proxy. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Pause the discussion, set ground rules, and turn first to Walter for his view
- **B.** Ask the children to agree on one spokesperson for talks with the hospice team
- **C.** Meet with each adult child separately before bringing the family back together
- **D.** Turn to the daughter named as health care proxy to guide the family's decision

19. Gertrude Lindgren, 86, has full decision-making capacity and attends a senior center. In talking with her, the center's LMSW learns that her daughter is paid from Gertrude's funds for caregiving under a written agreement, that Gertrude gave most of her savings to her church last year over her children's objections, and that a neighbor who runs her errands keeps the change from each trip without telling her. Which situation MOST clearly suggests financial exploitation?

- **A.** The daughter being paid from her funds under a written caregiving agreement
- **B.** Her gift of most of her savings to her church despite her children's objections
- **C.** The neighbor keeping the change from each errand without telling her about it

20. Ms. Grant, 50, is working with a reentry program after release from prison. She already has a resume and has completed two mock interviews with staff. Her draft objective is 'Ms. Grant will be hired for a full-time job within 60 days.' Her case manager notes that hiring decisions rest with employers, some of whom screen out applicants with records. What is the BEST revision?

- **A.** Ms. Grant will complete a resume and a mock interview with staff within two weeks
- **B.** Ms. Grant will submit five applications and attend a job fair weekly for 60 days
- **C.** Ms. Grant will be hired through one of the agency's partner employers within 60 days
- **D.** Ms. Grant will be hired for a full-time job within 90 days instead of 60 days

21. During a session, a social worker accidentally refers to Kai, 30, a transgender man, as "she" while summarizing his week. Kai pauses and looks away. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Restate the summary using "he" and continue without adding an apology
- **B.** Pause the summary and ask Kai how the mistake affected him before going on
- **C.** Briefly apologize, restate the summary with "he," and continue the session

22. Ruth, 76, was widowed a year ago and now rarely leaves her apartment. A depression screening last week showed mild symptoms, and she has no thoughts of suicide. She declines her aging services social worker's suggestion of the local senior center, saying, "That's not for me," and adds that she does not want strangers coming to her home. What is the BEST next step?

- **A.** Arrange for a volunteer friendly visitor to come to her apartment once a week
- **B.** Explore activities she valued in the past and choose one small step to start with
- **C.** Offer to go with her to the senior center for her first visit so that it feels easier
- **D.** Refer her to a psychiatrist for an evaluation for antidepressant medication

23. Rafael, 41, sustained a spinal cord injury in a fall two years ago. He tells a rehabilitation social worker that he is closer to his family than ever, has new priorities, and appreciates life more than he did before the injury, though he still grieves what he lost. Which concept BEST describes the changes Rafael reports?

- **A.** Acceptance in a stage model of grief
- **B.** Positive reappraisal coping
- **C.** Resilience
- **D.** Posttraumatic growth

24. Ana Morales, an LMSW in a primary care clinic, notices that yesterday's note in the electronic health record names the wrong antidepressant for her patient. She has confirmed with the prescriber that only her note is wrong and the medication list is correct. The patient's next visit with another provider is tomorrow. What should Ana do?

- **A.** Add a dated amendment to yesterday's note correcting the medication
- **B.** Ask the EHR administrator to replace yesterday's note with a new one
- **C.** Record the correct medication in today's note with a reference back

25. A school social worker meets with Minh, 11, after a teacher referral. Minh follows every class rule, completes homework and earns solid grades, but he rarely speaks up, describes himself as 'not good at anything,' and has few friends. The teacher has not met his parents. Based on parenting-style research conducted mainly with U.S. families, which home pattern is MOST consistently associated with this profile?

- **A.** Firm, unexplained rules with limited warmth
- **B.** Clear, reasoned rules paired with high warmth
- **C.** High warmth with few rules or expectations

26. Sergeant Tran, 33, a current National Guard member, sees an LMSW in a community practice for anxiety. He says he is afraid that his commander will find out and that it will end his career. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Suggest he talk with a unit chaplain, since chaplain conversations are privileged.
- **B.** Ask about his unit's culture around mental health before discussing his anxiety.
- **C.** Reassure him that his commander has no access to his civilian treatment records.
- **D.** Ask what he fears could happen and explain what confidentiality does and does not cover.

27. In a child welfare case, Ms. Abdi completed a required parenting class. Her case manager observes that during supervised visits she still struggles to respond calmly when her toddler cries, the issue the class was meant to address. The case manager does not know what the class covered. What should the case manager do NEXT?

- **A.** Review with her and the class provider what she learned and what help she needs
- **B.** Arrange in-home parenting coaching that focuses on soothing a crying toddler
- **C.** Report to the court that she has completed the required parenting class
- **D.** Move to longer visits as scheduled, since the class requirement is now met

28. An advocate is safety planning with Rosa, 38. Rosa says she will not leave her partner now, her job is going well and he never comes there, and he is most dangerous on weekends when he drinks. The advocate wants the plan to be survivor-led. Which focus should the plan center on first?

- **A.** Safety at her workplace and on her weekday commute
- **B.** Steps toward leaving the home within the next month
- **C.** Safety on weekends, when he drinks and is most dangerous
- **D.** Keeping her children out of the home on weekday evenings

29. Tess, 38, a transgender woman, arrives at an emergency shelter and asks to stay in the women's dormitory. The shelter's written policy assigns beds by gender identity, not by ID. A staff member proposes the men's dormitory because her ID lists a male sex marker. The shelter social worker is consulted. What is the BEST action?

- **A.** Place Tess in a single room near staff until her placement can be reviewed
- **B.** Refer Tess to a nearby shelter that specializes in serving LGBTQ+ adults
- **C.** Assign Tess a bed in the women's dormitory and address staff questions
- **D.** Ask the shelter director to decide, since her ID and identity do not match

30. During a home visit, a mother tells an LMSW that her 9-month-old now cries and searches when she hides his toy under a blanket. A few months ago he lost interest as soon as the toy disappeared. He also fusses when she leaves the room. She asks whether something is wrong. In Piaget's theory, which stage is her son in?

- **A.** Sensorimotor
- **B.** Preoperational
- **C.** Concrete operational
- **D.** Formal operational

31. Aisha Bello, 33, signed a waiver allowing her LMSW to testify only that she attended a parenting program. On the stand, the opposing attorney asks the LMSW about Aisha's childhood trauma, which she discussed in sessions. What should the LMSW do?

- **A.** Wait for Aisha's attorney to object before saying anything further
- **B.** Answer briefly, since the waiver opened the door to related history
- **C.** Ask the judge to close the courtroom before she answers the question
- **D.** Tell the court the question exceeds the waiver and ask for a ruling

32. Lena, 31, has been seeing an LMSW for depression for a year and will continue treatment for several more months. She hands the social worker an invitation to her wedding next month and says, "You helped make this possible." Agency policy discourages staff from attending clients' personal events. What is the MOST appropriate response?

- **A.** Explore what the invitation means, then decide together whether to attend
- **B.** Attend the ceremony only and leave before the reception begins
- **C.** Send a card and a small gift in place of attending the wedding
- **D.** Thank Lena, decline, and explore what the invitation means to her

33. Kiara, 24, tells a social worker at a domestic violence program that her partner has beaten her several times, yet she feels more attached to him than ever. She says, 'When he's sweet, it's the best I've ever felt,' and she defends him to her family. She describes close, steady relationships with her parents growing up, works full time, and says she could leave if she chose. Which concept BEST explains this attachment?

- **A.** An anxious attachment style carried from childhood
- **B.** Trauma bonding through cycles of abuse and affection
- **C.** Learned helplessness from repeated, inescapable abuse
- **D.** Identification with the aggressor to manage her fear

34. Kwame, 16, has a strong academic record and is waiting to hear whether he was admitted to his school's honors program. He tells his school social worker, "If I don't get in, my whole future is ruined. I'll end up with no college and no real job." He has not been told anything yet and has not done poorly in any course. Which cognitive distortion does his statement MOST clearly show?

- **A.** Labeling
- **B.** Catastrophizing
- **C.** Should statements
- **D.** Mind reading

35. Ivan Petrov, 88, lives in a nursing home and has no cognitive impairment. His son asks him to sign a release giving the son access to his financial and medical records. During the meeting, the son answers most of the social worker's questions for his father, and Mr. Petrov looks at his son before each reply. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Review the release line by line with both of them so the terms are fully understood
- **B.** Meet with Mr. Petrov alone to learn what he wants before any release is signed
- **C.** Make a report to adult protective services about possible financial exploitation
- **D.** Ask the facility physician to evaluate Mr. Petrov's capacity to sign the release

36. During a session at a family service agency, Ms. Reyes, 36, has talked rapidly about several stresses. The social worker says, 'So far today you've told me about the eviction notice, your son's suspension from school and the car that needs repairs. Which of these feels most pressing to you right now?' Which techniques is the social worker combining?

- **A.** Reframing and universalization
- **B.** Clarification and interpretation
- **C.** Summarizing and partializing

37. Graham Ellis, an LMSW, leaves a public school district to work at a private religious school that receives no funds from U.S. Department of Education programs. A parent there asks Graham whether FERPA gives her the right to inspect her son's counseling file at the school. Her son receives no public special education services. Which response is MOST accurate?

- **A.** FERPA likely does not apply here, since it covers schools funded by Education Department programs
- **B.** FERPA applies here, since it covers all elementary and secondary schools that enroll minor students
- **C.** FERPA applies here only to records of students who receive special education from the school

38. Keisha Morgan, 30, has been seeing a social worker for four sessions for anxiety. In the fifth session she says her partner sometimes locks her out of the house and last week grabbed her by the throat during an argument. She lives with him and plans to go home after the session. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Report the assault to the police, since choking is a serious crime
- **B.** Give her the local domestic violence hotline number to call later
- **C.** Assess her current danger, including the choking, and plan for safety
- **D.** Shift the treatment goals to focus on her relationship with her partner

39. A large social services agency wants to survey its staff about experiences of harassment by supervisors and promises that responses will be anonymous. Ifeoma, an LMSW on the evaluation team, is asked how to collect the data. Which method BEST delivers anonymity?

- **A.** A paper survey with names that the human resources office keeps confidential
- **B.** An online survey collecting no names, emails, IP addresses or small-unit details
- **C.** Private interviews with the human resources director, with notes kept locked
- **D.** A coded survey, with the list linking codes to names kept by the evaluator only

40. A social worker at a cancer center uses an existential framework with Lars, 55, who has become anxious about death since his cancer went into remission. Which statement BEST reflects how existential theory views his anxiety?

- **A.** It shows that he has not yet accepted the losses his illness brought
- **B.** It is a response to facing mortality that can prompt a more authentic life
- **C.** It is a conditioned fear response linked to cues from his cancer treatment
- **D.** It reflects beliefs about recurrence that can be tested against evidence

41. Priya, 24, has cerebral palsy and full decision-making capacity. She has completed the independent living center's skills assessment and plans to move from her parents' home into her own apartment with personal-care attendants. Her parents, who are not her guardians, ask the social worker to talk her out of the move. Priya has asked that planning stay between her and the center. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Arrange a family meeting so her parents' concerns can be addressed first
- **B.** Complete a functional assessment to confirm she can manage on her own
- **C.** Help her arrange attendant care and backup supports for the move

42. In a VA outpatient clinic, the social worker gives the PCL-5 to Ana Castillo, 34, an Air Force veteran, at intake and again every four weeks during her treatment for combat-related trauma. Her diagnosis was established at intake. What is the PRIMARY purpose of repeating the measure?

- **A.** To monitor how Ana's PTSD symptoms change as treatment proceeds
- **B.** To decide whether Ana still meets the diagnostic criteria for PTSD
- **C.** To screen Ana for any new trauma exposure since her last session

43. Amina, 24, gave birth to her first child five weeks ago. She tells a postpartum social worker she feels lost, misses her old routines and freedom, and doubts she can handle being a mother, though her mood is otherwise stable and she has support. Her distress is BEST classified as which type of crisis?

- **A.** Existential
- **B.** Developmental
- **C.** Situational

44. Abebe, an LMSW who has worked in youth services for five years, has transferred to his agency's geriatric program. He has little experience with dementia care. Which professional development plan is MOST appropriate?

- **A.** Complete a graduate certificate in gerontology before serving any clients
- **B.** Pursue dementia care training while supervised by an experienced colleague
- **C.** Rely on transferable skills from youth work and seek training if problems arise

45. At a first video session with a telehealth company, a client introduces herself as Jordan, 33, and gives a date of birth that matches the referral. Company procedure requires showing photo ID on camera at intake. Jordan has her ID nearby but says she is eager to start and asks if she can show it next time. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Have Jordan show her photo ID on camera now, as procedure requires
- **B.** Begin today and verify her ID at the second session as she prefers
- **C.** Accept her matching date of birth as confirmation of her identity
- **D.** Confirm her location and emergency contact, then begin the session

46. Patrick, 63, has been living outside for three years. When an outreach social worker mentions housing, he says, "Maybe I'd look at an apartment someday if it didn't come with all those rules." He has not asked about any program. Which response BEST fits Patrick's readiness?

- **A.** Start a housing application with him today while he seems open
- **B.** Let him bring up housing again so that he does not feel pushed
- **C.** Go over the program rules in detail so he knows what to expect
- **D.** Explore what he would want in a place and what worries him about rules

47. Halima, 37, tells a social worker at a family service agency, 'When my kids start fighting, I think, I'm a terrible mother. Then I feel hopeless and go lie down.' From a CBT perspective, which part of this sequence is the MOST direct source of her hopeless mood?

- **A.** her children starting to fight with each other
- **B.** her thought that she is a terrible mother
- **C.** her going to lie down when the fighting starts

48. In a long-term therapy group at a community mental health center, Elena, 41, repeatedly reacts to the male co-leader's comments as harsh criticism, much as she describes her father. With the group's help she notices the pattern and responds to him differently. Which of Yalom's factors is MOST evident?

- **A.** Imparting information about common relationship patterns
- **B.** Catharsis through the open expression of strong feeling
- **C.** Corrective recapitulation of the primary family group
- **D.** Interpersonal learning through feedback from members

49. Daniel, 32, has a spinal cord injury and is preparing for discharge from a rehabilitation hospital. He wants to return to his own accessible apartment. His parents worry he cannot manage and suggest a nursing facility until they can make other arrangements. He will need help each morning and evening with dressing and transfers. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Arrange a short nursing facility stay until his parents can set up other care
- **B.** Plan a discharge to his parents' home while he applies for attendant services
- **C.** Explore home and community-based services, such as a personal care attendant
- **D.** Refer him to an independent living center for peer mentoring after discharge

50. Diego, 10, has missed several days of school. His teacher asks the school LMSW to find out whether Diego's parents are undocumented, because she suspects fear of immigration enforcement is keeping him home. The school does not need status information for any service. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Meet with the family about attendance barriers without asking about their status.
- **B.** Ask the parents about status privately and keep the answer out of school records.
- **C.** Refer the family to an immigration legal clinic in case enforcement fears are the cause.

51. Partway through treatment at a counseling agency, Allison Cho, LMSW, learns that her client's new romantic partner is Allison's former husband, with whom she is in an ongoing custody dispute. The client does not know about the connection. What is the MOST appropriate action?

- **A.** Continue treatment and avoid discussing the partner unless the client raises him
- **B.** Tell the client a personal conflict has arisen and arrange a transfer to another clinician
- **C.** Continue treatment while using closer supervision to monitor her objectivity

52. Noah, 28, was diagnosed with Asperger's disorder at age 10. At a vocational rehabilitation intake, he asks the social worker how his diagnosis fits current DSM-5-TR terminology. Which statement is MOST accurate?

- **A.** It now falls under social (pragmatic) communication disorder
- **B.** It is listed in DSM-5-TR as a condition for further study
- **C.** It is now included within autism spectrum disorder

53. Hannah Goldberg, 17, tells the school social worker that she has panic attacks "all the time" in class and is starting to avoid school. Which question would BEST help the worker identify strengths Hannah already uses?

A. "Which classes or teachers seem to set off the panic attacks?"
B. "Tell me about a class period when the panic was less intense."
C. "What usually happens in your body when a panic attack starts?"

54. After two incidents in which residents' conflicts escalated, the director of a youth shelter asks Marisol, the agency's LMSW training coordinator, to plan staff training. Marisol has already reviewed both incidents, which showed that staff raised their voices and gave commands, and a staff survey shows few have had de-escalation training. Shelter policy on conflict is current. What should Marisol do FIRST?

A. Choose a de-escalation curriculum that targets the gaps the review found
B. Review the incident reports again to identify skill and system factors
C. Survey staff about which training topics they would most like to attend
D. Ask the director to revise the shelter's policy on resident conflicts

55. Keisha, 19, is in her third session at a college counseling center about a sexual assault last year. The person who assaulted her has left the school, and she has said she does not want to report. In earlier sessions the social worker reflected her guilt and shame. Today she asks directly, "Is something wrong with me? Why did I just freeze instead of fighting back?" Which response is BEST?

A. It sounds like you've been carrying a lot of blame for how you reacted that night.
B. Freezing is an automatic survival response to danger; it is not a choice you made.
C. Would it help to go over your reporting options with the Title IX office this week?
D. Many students who have been assaulted describe feeling just the way you do now.

56. Two days after a child on her caseload was seriously injured at home, Bianca, a child protective services worker, tells her supervisor she cannot stop replaying the case and is second-guessing every visit. She adds that it reminds her of her own painful divorce. She is still completing her work but says she feels shaky. Which response BEST fits the supervisor's supportive function?

A. Review agency policy with her to confirm each step was followed
B. Explore her divorce in depth so she can resolve the old pain
C. Help her manage the stress of the case so she can keep working well
D. Teach her a risk assessment tool to strengthen her future visits

57. Kenji, 29, was turned down for a job he had wanted for months. He tells the career counselor at a reentry program that he never really wanted the position because the commute would have been too long and the pay was not worth it. Earlier he had described it as his dream job. Which defense mechanism is MOST evident?

A. Denial
B. Intellectualization
C. Projection
D. Rationalization

58. A child welfare worker learns that Sergio, 6, was hit by his father, who moved out after Sergio's mother told him to leave. The mother, Elena, has obtained a protective order, believes Sergio, and agrees to keep the father away from him. What is the MOST appropriate next step?

A. Place Sergio with relatives until his father completes a parenting class
B. Close the investigation, since the father has left and an order is in place
C. Refer the father to a parenting program before any contact with Sergio
D. Develop an in-home safety plan with Elena and continue the assessment

59. Ana, 23, comes to a walk-in crisis center after a fire destroyed her apartment overnight. She is crying and says she has no idea where she will sleep tonight. She was not injured and denies any thoughts of harming herself. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Ask more about her safety, including any thoughts of harming herself
- **B.** Help her list the documents and belongings she needs to replace
- **C.** Arrange a follow-up appointment to see how she is coping this week
- **D.** Help her find a safe place to stay tonight and a way to get there

60. Lucía Fernández, 24, completes the GAD-7 at a community mental health intake, and her score is in the severe range. She asks the social worker, "So does this mean I have an anxiety disorder?" The social worker will complete Lucía's diagnostic assessment later in this same intake session. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Ask Lucía what it would mean to her if she did have a disorder
- **B.** Explain that the score shows strong anxiety and more assessment will tell
- **C.** Explain that the clinic psychiatrist will give a diagnosis at her next visit

61. Ruth, 58, tells a social worker at her primary care clinic that her husband of 35 years controls their money and sometimes slaps her. She relies on his health insurance, believes divorce is wrong, and says she does not want to leave. The social worker has just completed a danger assessment with her, which showed no high-lethality indicators. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Help her weigh the pros and cons of staying and of leaving
- **B.** Share information on how abuse can escalate in long marriages
- **C.** Ask what would help her feel safer while she stays in the home
- **D.** Give her the hotline number and a referral to legal aid on divorce

Section 2 Questions 62-122

62. An evaluator at a caregiver support program gives a new 12-item caregiver burden scale once to 200 family caregivers. She finds that caregivers who score high on any one item tend to score high on the others, so the items hang together closely. She has not yet given the scale a second time or compared it with any other measure. This result is evidence of the scale's:

A. criterion validity
B. internal consistency
C. test-retest reliability

63. In a family session at a community clinic, Mrs. Ortiz quickly agrees with whatever her husband says, apologizes for 'causing trouble,' and never says what she herself wants, even when the social worker asks her directly. In Virginia Satir's model, which communication stance is she MOST likely using?

A. placating
B. irrelevant
C. super-reasonable
D. blaming

64. Tariq Hassan, an LMSW in an aging services program, frames a dilemma as a choice between telling an adult daughter about her father's new diagnosis or keeping it secret. His supervisor notes that he has skipped part of the third step of Reamer's model. What should Tariq do?

A. Identify everyone the decision will affect, including other relatives
B. Bring the two choices to the program's ethics committee for review
C. List further possible courses of action with their benefits and risks
D. Weigh each of the two choices against the Code, the law, and theory

65. During a home visit for an aging services assessment, Beatrice Coleman, 81, who is alert and lives alone, answers each question with long stories about her late husband. The social worker must complete the medication section today because a home health referral depends on it, and Beatrice manages her own pills. What is the BEST approach?

A. Let Beatrice finish her stories and cover her medications at a later visit
B. Briefly reflect a story, then ask how she keeps track of her medications
C. Call her pharmacy to learn which medications she fills and how often

66. Partway through describing a difficult case to a trusted colleague from another agency for consultation, LMSW Fatima realizes from the colleague's comments that he knows her client well through their mosque. She has not yet said the client's name. What should Fatima do?

A. Ask the colleague to keep confidential anything he infers about the client.
B. Stop the consultation and seek advice from a colleague without that connection.
C. Continue, changing details so the colleague cannot link them to the client.
D. Finish the consultation, then tell the client afterward whom she consulted.

67. A researcher at a family services agency interviews three adult siblings who grew up in the same home with a parent who drank heavily. One sibling is a nurse with a stable family, one is in treatment for an alcohol use disorder, and one manages chronic anxiety. Which systems concept BEST describes this pattern?

- **A.** Equifinality
- **B.** Circular causality
- **C.** Homeostasis
- **D.** Multifinality

68. A hospital social worker learns that an insurer has denied coverage for Mr. Albright's inpatient rehabilitation stay after his stroke. With his consent, the worker files an appeal on his behalf and calls the insurer's reviewer to argue that his stay meets the plan's criteria. She also notes that two other patients faced similar denials this month. Her work on Mr. Albright's appeal is BEST described as:

- **A.** Brokering
- **B.** Legislative advocacy
- **C.** Cause advocacy
- **D.** Case advocacy

69. Lena, 27, has social anxiety and is preparing for her first presentation at work. Her LMSW has been helping her challenge the belief that competent people never feel nervous. In session Lena says, "You probably never get nervous like this." The worker does feel nervous before presentations and has no current personal difficulty with it. Which response is BEST?

- **A.** Mention briefly that she also gets nervous before speaking, then ask what Lena makes of that
- **B.** Describe how she worked through serious stage fright in graduate school, to offer Lena hope
- **C.** Reassure Lena that nearly everyone gets nervous and that her presentation will go well

70. Tomás Herrera, 9, is starting counseling at a school-based clinic after his parents signed the consent forms. In the first session, the LMSW explains in simple words what counseling is, what they will do together, and who will hear about it. Then she asks Tomás whether he is willing to take part, and he nods. What has the LMSW obtained from Tomás?

- **A.** Informed consent
- **B.** Assent
- **C.** Parental permission

71. Ana, 30, and her two children left an abusive partner and stayed in an emergency shelter for 30 days, the program's limit. Unable to find affordable housing and without income, she returned to him. She tells her advocate she would leave again 'tomorrow' if she had a place to go, and that he has never threatened to hurt her for leaving. A staff member says, 'She'll just keep going back.' Which understanding BEST guides the team's response?

- **A.** Returning can be a safety strategy when leaving raises the risk of lethal violence
- **B.** Returning suggests ambivalence, so motivational interviewing should come first
- **C.** Leaving is often a process, and returns often reflect housing and income barriers

72. A new social worker at a public benefits agency notices a strict chain of command, detailed written procedures for every decision, hiring and job assignments based on specialized credentials, and files that move through several levels of review. The agency does not use time studies or pay based on output. Which organizational model do these features BEST reflect?

- **A.** Weber's bureaucratic model
- **B.** Taylor's scientific management
- **C.** Mayo's human relations model

73. At an integrated primary care clinic, Esperanza Morales, 42, completes a PHQ-9 in the waiting room. Her total score falls in the moderate range, and she marks that she has had thoughts that she would be better off dead on "several days." She has not yet been asked about these thoughts. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Arrange an emergency psychiatric evaluation before she leaves
- **B.** Inform the physician so that medication can be discussed today
- **C.** Give her the 988 number and schedule a follow-up within a week
- **D.** Ask her directly about current suicidal thoughts, plans, and intent

74. Kwame Asante, LMSW, is presenting his agency's new peer mentoring program at a state conference. Agency staff designed the program; it is not based on an established model. It has one year of encouraging pre-post data from 30 participants but no comparison group. An audience member asks whether the program is evidence-based. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Say it is not yet evaluated, since pre-post data without a comparison group is not evidence
- **B.** Call it evidence-informed, since mentoring models in general have support from controlled trials
- **C.** Call it promising, with early pre-post gains that still need a controlled evaluation

75. A nonprofit agency receives a federal grant that pays for its youth employment program. The executive director wants two grant-funded program staff to spend time this month meeting with members of Congress to support a bill that would expand the program. The agency's policy coordinator, a social worker, is asked for guidance. What is the BEST advice?

- **A.** Cancel the meetings, because agencies receiving federal funds may not lobby at all
- **B.** Proceed, as long as each staff member's lobbying stays under 20 percent of their hours
- **C.** Pay for the staff's lobbying time with non-federal funds, such as private donations
- **D.** Have the staff attend as private citizens during their regular grant-funded hours

76. Tyrone, 22, is court-ordered to attend anger management counseling after a fight outside a restaurant. At intake he says he is only there because the judge made him come. What should the social worker do as part of informed consent?

- **A.** Explain that the court order makes his consent to services unnecessary
- **B.** Explain what will be reported to the court and the consequences of declining
- **C.** Explain that what he says stays private unless he poses a danger to others

77. A social worker at a community mental health agency learns from Deshawn, 11, that he has not been getting the reading help listed in his IEP. His mother does not know he has told the worker. The agency has no release to speak with his school. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Have Deshawn sign a release so the worker can call his teacher
- **B.** Talk with Deshawn's mother about the concern and ask what she wants
- **C.** File a complaint with the state education agency about the services
- **D.** Ask the school's special education coordinator whether he gets them

78. A case manager organizes her caseload so that high-risk clients receive weekly contact and stable clients receive monthly contact. She reviews each client's level every month and increases contact whenever a client's risk rises. She does not use the levels to move clients to other programs or to set her total caseload size. This practice is BEST described as:

- **A.** Step-down planning
- **B.** Acuity-based tiering
- **C.** Weighted caseload measurement

79. A social worker is reviewing a new service plan for Jamal Price, 30, who is in outpatient substance use treatment. The plan states: 'Goal: Jamal will stay sober and rebuild ties with his family.' Listed under it is: 'Jamal will attend three AA meetings each week through June 30.' How is the second statement BEST classified?

- **A.** A goal, since it states the broad outcome that Jamal wants
- **B.** A baseline, since it records the starting level of a behavior
- **C.** An objective, since it is a measurable step toward a broader aim

80. LMSW Grace at a housing agency learns of a new policy requiring staff to send a client's entire case file with every referral to partner agencies, including counseling notes unrelated to the referral. She has no referrals pending this month and has not yet raised the issue with anyone. According to the NASW Code of Ethics, what should Grace do?

- **A.** Follow the policy while leadership has the chance to review it
- **B.** Ask management to revise the policy to share only needed information
- **C.** Share only the needed information on referrals without raising the policy
- **D.** Report the agency's policy to the state social work licensing board

81. At a probation office, a social worker asks Tyrell, 23, how he is doing with his curfew. Tyrell snaps, 'You're just like my probation officer, always on my back about everything.' In motivational interviewing terms, this is BEST described as:

- **A.** Sustain talk, which signals arguments for staying the same
- **B.** Discord, which signals tension in the working relationship
- **C.** Resistance, which shows he is in the precontemplation stage

82. A substance use counselor is completing a strengths assessment with Luis Ortega, 44, who has been sober for three months. The form has one column for personal strengths and one for environmental resources. Luis mentions his determination to stay sober for his children, his budgeting skill, his sense of humor and his cousin's rides to appointments. Which item belongs in the environmental resources column?

- **A.** His cousin's rides to his medical appointments
- **B.** His determination to stay sober for his children
- **C.** His skill at budgeting a small monthly income
- **D.** His sense of humor during difficult times

83. Theo Brandt, 45, comes to a family service agency for help with low mood. He takes an active part in the interview but cannot say when his sleep problems began or how much his drinking has changed this year. He signs a release so the social worker can speak with his wife, Ines. What is the BEST reason to gather collateral information from Ines?

- **A.** To replace his self-report, since low mood can distort what he tells the worker
- **B.** To add her view of recent changes and fill gaps in what he can recall himself
- **C.** To check that his account is accurate before any planning goes forward

84. A research and evaluation unit is helping a nonprofit write objectives for a grant that funds a youth mentoring program. The funder has accepted the program's outcome objectives and now asks for one process objective that will track whether services are delivered as planned. Which objective BEST meets this request?

- **A.** By June 2027, 75% of enrolled youth will raise school attendance 10% above baseline
- **B.** By June 2027, the program will match 60 youth with mentors who meet them weekly
- **C.** By June 2027, 80% of matched youth will rate their mentor bond as strong on a survey

85. Marcus, 22, a community college student, received a notice that he will be evicted in three weeks for unpaid rent after his work hours were cut. He tells the homelessness prevention social worker that he has been journaling about his stress but has not contacted anyone. What is the BEST coping focus?

- **A.** Teach relaxation skills to lower his stress while the eviction is pending
- **B.** Help him reframe the eviction as a chance to find more affordable housing
- **C.** Help him plan concrete steps such as applying for rent aid
- **D.** Help him identify friends and family who can offer emotional support

86. Odessa Vance, an LCSW at a child advocacy center, is asked to supervise an LMSW who will conduct forensic interviews with children. Odessa has never been trained in forensic interviewing. The LMSW starts next month. What should she do?

- **A.** Arrange for someone trained in forensic interviewing to supervise that work
- **B.** Supervise the work and review each recorded interview against a protocol
- **C.** Supervise the work based on her broad clinical experience with children

87. Walter Abernathy, 79, is receiving hospice care at home. Near the end of a visit, he says he is frightened tonight and asks the social worker, who does not share his faith, to pray with him now. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Offer to contact the hospice chaplain to pray with him at the next visit
- **B.** Lead a short prayer from his tradition, since he has asked for one now
- **C.** Explain that the worker does not share his faith and ask how that feels
- **D.** Ask what he would like and offer to sit with him while he prays

88. A needs assessment for a community action agency reports that the mean annual household income in a neighborhood is $52,000, while the median is $38,000. The agency is using these figures in a grant proposal. What is the MOST likely explanation for this difference?

- **A.** A few households with very low incomes are pulling the mean downward
- **B.** Most households earn more than the mean, with a few earning far less
- **C.** A few households with very high incomes are pulling the mean upward

89. Tomas, an LMSW at a rural hospice, wants advice about a family conflict over a patient's care. He plans to call a hospice social worker who practices in another state and has no ties to Tomas's community. The family has not been asked about outside consultation. What is the BEST way for Tomas to seek this consultation?

- **A.** Ask general questions about family conflict without describing this case
- **B.** Get the family's written consent before sharing any details of the case
- **C.** Describe the family conflict without names or other identifying details

90. Leila, 33, calls a crisis line the night her partner moves out. She denies thoughts of self-harm when asked directly. She has named being alone tonight as the hardest part and has talked through her grief and anger. She mentions that she has gotten through hard times before. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Agree on a time to call her tomorrow to see how the night went
- **B.** Teach her a grounding exercise to use if her distress rises tonight
- **C.** Ask what has helped her get through hard nights in the past
- **D.** Help her find a support group for people going through a separation

91. Elijah Washington, 84, is ready for discharge after surgery for a hip fracture. A psychiatric consultant found yesterday that he has decision-making capacity, and nothing has changed since. Physical therapy has cleared him to go home with home therapy. He wants to return to the home where he lives alone. His daughter insists he move to a nursing home because she fears another fall. What should the hospital social worker do?

- **A.** Arrange a short rehabilitation stay before he returns home
- **B.** Support his choice and set up home services for the fall risk
- **C.** Plan with his daughter and ask her to approve the final plan
- **D.** Request a second capacity evaluation given his daughter's fears

92. The parents of Ethan Morales, 10, review his school file and find a social worker's note describing a playground incident in which, they say, Ethan was the target rather than the aggressor. They ask the school to correct the note. The school social worker who wrote it believes it is accurate. Under FERPA, what happens if the school declines to amend it?

- **A.** The note stays, and the parents may appeal only to the local school board
- **B.** The note is sealed until the principal and the parents reach an agreement
- **C.** The parents may request a hearing and add their own statement to the file
- **D.** The parents may have an outside evaluator review the incident and the note

93. During a chart audit at an aging services agency, a reviewer finds that Malik, an LMSW, has been copying each client's previous progress note into the next one and changing only the date. Several copied notes describe one client's wife as present at visits after she had died. Malik explains that his clients' situations rarely change. What should Malik do?

- **A.** Continue copying notes, adding a line confirming he reviewed and updated them.
- **B.** Copy forward the assessment and plan, and write only the narrative fresh.
- **C.** Shorten notes for unchanged clients to a line confirming the visit occurred.
- **D.** Write each note from that visit's observations and the client's own report.

94. Clarence, 52, is required by his employer to attend counseling at an employee assistance program after a heated workplace incident. In the first session he says, "This program is a waste of my time." Which response by the LMSW BEST reflects motivational interviewing?

- **A.** "You're frustrated about spending time on something you didn't choose."
- **B.** "Research shows programs like this one really do help most participants."
- **C.** "Many people feel that way at first, but most end up finding it useful."
- **D.** "What do you think your employer was hoping you would get out of this?"

95. At a community mental health center, a social worker is completing a violence risk assessment for Leon, 29, who has schizophrenia. Leon takes his medication regularly, does not use alcohol or drugs, and often voices anger in sessions about his landlord. Records show two arrests for assault, at 22 and 25. The team asks which factor should carry the MOST weight in estimating his risk. Which factor should the social worker identify?

- **A.** His diagnosis of a schizophrenia spectrum disorder
- **B.** His frequent angry statements about his landlord
- **C.** His past arrests for assaulting other people

96. Hector, 50, has stayed in a homeless shelter for three months. His file shows he has signed every service plan without asking questions but rarely works on the listed goals. In a check-in, he says the goals "are what the last worker wanted." What is the social worker's BEST approach to the next plan?

- **A.** Set the old plan aside and ask what he wants to change in his own life
- **B.** Ask him which goals on the current plan feel most important to start with
- **C.** Have him explain each goal back in his own words to confirm understanding
- **D.** Ask his peer support specialist to review the plan with him goal by goal

97. In a state with no mandatory reporting rule for this situation, a social worker learns that a colleague and friend has been struggling with depression. The colleague has already started treatment and, with their supervisor's knowledge, reduced her caseload. She asks the worker to keep it private. What should the worker do?

- **A.** Inform their supervisor so that the agency can monitor her performance
- **B.** Encourage her to take full leave until her treatment has been completed
- **C.** Keep it private, since she is already taking adequate remedial steps

98. Mei, 34, sees an LMSW at a community clinic for anxiety that she describes as "just there all day." In the second session the social worker explains cognitive restructuring, and Mei agrees to try it. When asked what goes through her mind when the anxiety spikes, she says, "Nothing really. I just feel tense and sick." What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Help her weigh the evidence for and against her anxious predictions
- **B.** Plan a behavioral experiment to test her most frequent worried belief
- **C.** Coach her to write balanced alternative thoughts when anxiety rises
- **D.** Have her record situations and thoughts each time her mood shifts

99. Gerald, 58, calls a social worker at an outpatient clinic where he receives treatment for panic disorder. He reports chest pressure spreading to his left arm, shortness of breath, and nausea, and he says this "feels different" from his usual panic attacks. What should the social worker do FIRST?

- **A.** Urge him to call 911 now and confirm that help is on the way
- **B.** Coach him through the breathing skills he uses for panic attacks
- **C.** Ask him to rate his anxiety and compare it with his usual attacks
- **D.** Advise him to take his as-needed anxiety medication and call back

100. A school social worker is running an eight-week group on coping with parental divorce for fifth graders, using a curriculum in which each week builds on the last. In week four, two students ask to join. A new cycle of the group begins in five weeks. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Add them now and pair each with a current member to help them catch up
- **B.** Add them now and briefly review earlier sessions' content for everyone
- **C.** Offer them places in the next cycle and see them individually until then

101. Emma, 11, lives with a father who has severe alcohol use disorder. Her teacher tells the school social worker that Emma is quiet, spends recess reading alone, never asks for help and is easy to forget in a busy classroom. At home, her mother says Emma stays in her room and 'never causes any trouble.' Her grades are average. Which family role does Emma's behavior MOST closely fit?

- **A.** Lost child
- **B.** Hero
- **C.** Scapegoat
- **D.** Mascot

102. Raymond, 58, was recently diagnosed with ALS. He tells the outpatient clinic social worker, "If I can just make it to my daughter's wedding in June, I'll be ready to accept whatever comes after that." Which Kübler-Ross reaction does his statement MOST reflect?

- **A.** Denial
- **B.** Bargaining
- **C.** Acceptance

103. Mateo, 19, calls the campus counseling center after a breakup and says he is "done with everything." The social worker asks directly about suicide. Mateo has no plan, intent or means, his roommate is with him, and he agrees to call back or use 988 if things worsen. He then talks rapidly, jumping among his grades, money and his mother. What should the social worker do NEXT?

- **A.** Help him identify which of these concerns set off tonight's crisis
- **B.** Ask to speak with his roommate about support for him overnight
- **C.** Offer a counseling appointment tomorrow to sort through his concerns
- **D.** Help him list possible options for each of the concerns he raised

104. Brenda, 47, became a licensed foster parent two months ago. She tells the agency social worker that she does not know whether she may approve a haircut, sign a school field trip form or let her foster son stay overnight with a friend. No one has explained these limits, and she worries about making a mistake. She says the workload itself is manageable. Which concept BEST describes Brenda's difficulty?

- **A.** Role overload
- **B.** Role conflict
- **C.** Role ambiguity
- **D.** Role discontinuity

105. Rashida, an LMSW, has just become supervisor of a community mental health team. She learns that one worker carries 48 active cases while two others with similar experience carry about 30 each. No one has complained. Some workers on the team carry mostly low-contact monitoring cases, and Rashida does not yet know how each caseload breaks down. What should Rashida do FIRST?

- **A.** Raise the imbalance with the program director as a staffing concern
- **B.** Rebalance caseloads at the next team assignment meeting
- **C.** Ask the worker with 48 cases to identify clients ready for closure
- **D.** Review how cases were assigned and how complex each caseload is

106. Renata, 31, failed her driving test last month after her instructor criticized her parking. Since then she has felt intense shame and has stopped practicing. She tells the social worker, "Failing proves I'm worthless at everything." The social worker uses Ellis's rational emotive behavior therapy. Which element of the situation should the social worker target for disputing?

- **A.** Her conclusion that failing the test means she is worthless
- **B.** The shame and avoidance that have followed since the test
- **C.** The failed test and the instructor's criticism of her parking
- **D.** Her decision to stop practicing until she feels more confident

107. After three years of funding, a foundation must decide whether to renew support for a job training program for women leaving prison. It asks an evaluator to determine whether participants' employment and earnings 12 months after completion are better than those of similar women who did not take part. The foundation is not asking how the program is run day to day. Which type of evaluation is this?

- **A.** Formative process evaluation
- **B.** Community needs assessment
- **C.** Summative outcome evaluation

108. Ines Moreau, an LMSW at a county mental health clinic, also sees clients under supervision in an evening private practice. She tells a clinic client on the waitlist for weekly therapy that she could be seen sooner at Ines's private practice. Which ethical concern is MOST directly raised?

- **A.** Fee splitting, because Ines benefits financially from the referral
- **B.** Soliciting a private fee for services available through her employer
- **C.** Client abandonment, because the client gives up her waitlist place

109. At an aging services agency, a social worker co-leads a weekly eight-member support group for adults caring for a spouse with dementia. Members share coping strategies, swap respite resources and help one another through hard weeks. The worker uses group processes to build mutual aid, and a member later asks her for an individual appointment. Which level of practice does her work in the group represent?

- **A.** Micro practice
- **B.** Macro practice
- **C.** Mezzo practice

110. Last month, Yesenia Flores, 33, signed a release allowing her domestic violence advocate, an LMSW, to speak with her sister. Today Yesenia called to revoke it. An hour later, her sister calls the agency saying she is worried about Yesenia. There is no indication of imminent danger. What should the social worker do?

- **A.** Listen to her concerns without confirming or sharing information
- **B.** Tell the sister you will pass her message along to Yesenia today
- **C.** Explain to the sister that Yesenia withdrew her consent this morning
- **D.** Give a brief general update, since the sister knows about the services

111. A social worker at a community mental health center is screening members for an interpersonal therapy group starting next week. During the interview, Lionel, 50, is in an acute manic episode, speaking rapidly and unable to stay on topic. He says he is eager to join. What is the BEST decision?

- **A.** Admit him now, since group support may help him stabilize more quickly
- **B.** Defer group placement until he is more stable and reconsider him then
- **C.** Admit him on a trial basis with a written agreement about talking time

112. Yusuf Haddad, an LMSW, runs a depression support group at a nonprofit. A psychiatrist in private practice offers to pay him $50 for every group member he refers to her. Several members have asked Yusuf about medication evaluations. What is the BEST response?

- **A.** Ask his supervisor to decide whether the payment arrangement is acceptable
- **B.** Accept the payment and disclose the arrangement to each member he refers
- **C.** Accept the payment for the nonprofit and use it to buy supplies for the group
- **D.** Decline the payment and refer members based only on their needs

113. In a state that requires social workers to report suspected financial exploitation of vulnerable adults, Mrs. Ruth Abernathy, 84, who has mild cognitive impairment, tells her aging-services worker that her nephew has been withdrawing large sums from her account. She asks the worker not to tell anyone. What should the worker do?

- **A.** Respect her wish, since she is an adult who can make her own decisions
- **B.** Report to adult protective services and explain to her why
- **C.** Call the nephew and ask him to stop and return the money he withdrew

114. Mrs. Okonkwo, 81, lives alone, has been found to have decision-making capacity, and is neglecting her diabetes care. An LMSW at her senior center reported self-neglect, and Adult Protective Services has opened a case. Her daughter calls the LMSW, frightened that APS will now place her mother in a nursing home. What should the LMSW tell the daughter about the role of APS?

A. APS serves only adults a court has declared incapacitated, so it will close the case
B. APS may move her mother to a facility once it substantiates the self-neglect
C. APS will investigate and offer services, which her mother may choose to refuse

115. The director of a community mental health center adopts a new trauma-focused treatment model and requires all clinicians to use it within one month. To save money, the director also eliminates the agency's training budget for the year. Which concern is MOST significant?

A. The model may not fit every client's culture and background
B. Clients were not told about the new model before it was adopted
C. Staff must use a model without the training to deliver it competently
D. Staff members were not given a vote on adopting the new model

116. Two social workers review the case of a large Somali family denied public housing. One studies Somali family customs to communicate better with the family. The other examines how the housing authority's unit-size rules screen out large families and builds a case with the family to challenge them. The second worker's approach BEST reflects:

A. Cultural competence
B. Anti-oppressive practice
C. Cultural humility
D. The strengths perspective

117. Samuel, 75, lost his wife three months ago. At a senior center, he tells the social worker that he feels worthless and "rotten to the core," takes no pleasure in anything, including his grandchildren, and wakes at 3 a.m. unable to sleep again. His comments rarely mention his wife. What should the social worker do FIRST?

A. Explain that these reactions are common after loss and plan weekly check-ins
B. Assess for a major depressive episode, including any thoughts of suicide
C. Ask him to describe his memories of his wife and how he is grieving her
D. Refer him to his physician to rule out medical causes of his sleep problems

118. A county mental health agency adopts a rule barring staff from helping clients with benefit appeals, citing staff time. Pedro, 47, a client of LMSW Wanjiru, has limited literacy and has just received a denial of his disability benefits application. The appeal deadline is in 60 days, and a local legal aid office handles disability appeals at no cost. What should Wanjiru do?

A. Help Pedro complete the appeal, since his need outweighs the agency's rule
B. Connect Pedro with legal aid and raise the rule's impact with her supervisor
C. Give Pedro the appeal forms and written instructions, and check in with him

119. Valentina, 45, is suing her former employer and asks her social worker to release her counseling records in response to the employer's subpoena. She is ready to sign a release today so the case can move forward. What should the social worker do FIRST?

A. Have her sign the release and send the records to the employer's attorney
B. Send the records to the court directly rather than to the employer's attorney
C. Review with her what the records contain and how they may be used
D. Prepare a treatment summary for her attorney in place of the full record

120. What MOST distinguishes Perlman's problem-solving model from the diagnostic school of casework that preceded it?

- **A.** Exploring early life conflicts to build insight into current difficulties
- **B.** Changing family structure so members can solve problems together
- **C.** Linking clients to resources to improve the person-environment fit
- **D.** Engaging the client's own coping capacity on a present problem

121. Aiden, 10, has ADHD and a reading disability and has been struggling in his general education classroom. He was fully reevaluated two months ago, and the report recommends classroom supports. He has not yet received a classroom aide or pull-out reading help. At the IEP meeting, the principal proposes moving him to a separate special education school. What should the school social worker recommend?

- **A.** Add an aide and pull-out reading help in his general class first
- **B.** Request a full reevaluation before the team discusses any placement
- **C.** Move him to a special education classroom within his current school

122. A middle school starts an anti-bullying curriculum in September. In October, a widely reported case of cyberbullying at a nearby school leads to assemblies, news coverage and parent meetings across the district. By December, bullying reports at the middle school have dropped sharply. Students completed the same bullying survey only once, in December. Which threat to internal validity is MOST relevant to concluding the curriculum caused the drop?

- **A.** History
- **B.** Testing
- **C.** Maturation