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Chapter 2. Theory as the Basis for Practice

Questions

Multiple Choice

1. The nurse researcher is planning a research study. For which reason should the nurse identify a theory as a basis of this study before proceeding?

1. It can represent graphically the phenomenon being studied.
2. It can explain how the definitions within the study are linked.
3. It can identify a broader scope of the phenomenon being studied.
4. It can validate the application of the theory to the nursing knowledge base.

Answer: _____

2. The nurse researcher is analyzing the use of a theory as a basis for a study. For which reason should the nurse outline the phenomenon being studied with words, symbols, and lines?

1. To identify the population of interest for the study
2. To reduce the need to define the parts of the theory
3. To display the components and relationships of the theory
4. To reduce the amount of work needed to explain the theory

Answer: _____

3. The nurse researcher is designing a study. For which reason should the nurse avoid using a conceptual model or framework instead of a theory as a basis for the study?

1. A conceptual model provides a broad scope of the propositions.
2. A conceptual model uses a graphic representation for the phenomenon.
3. A conceptual model limits the interpretation of the intent of the theory.
4. A conceptual model explains the phenomenon as the focus of the theory.

Answer: _____

4. The nurse would like to use a conceptual model as a basis for a study. Which needs to occur before the model can be viewed as a viable theory?

1. The generalities of the concepts should be explained.

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2. The broad scope of the concepts should be described.
3. The groups to which the concepts apply should be identified.
4. The interrelatedness of the concepts should be demonstrated.

Answer: _____

5. The nurse researcher is planning to use Maslow's hierarchy of needs as the theory for a study. Which need should the nurse identify as the base for the entire hierarchy?

1. Safety
2. Physiologic
3. Self-actualization
4. Love and belonging

Answer: _____

6. The nurse researcher is considering the use of a developmental theory for a study. Which should the nurse identify as a characteristic of these types of theories?

1. They are based upon a specific population.
2. They focus on personality development.
3. They progress through stages in the life cycle.
4. They are developed through mathematical validation.

Answer: _____

7. The nurse researcher is designing a study that focuses on the personality development of school-age children. Whose theory would the nurse select as a basis for this study?

1. Piaget
2. Erikson
3. Johnson
4. Kohlberg

Answer: _____

8. While analyzing data collected during a study using Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, the nurse researcher notes that several participants follow a fixed set of rules as stated by the parents. In which level of development would the nurse classify these participants?

1. Conventional

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2. Preoperational
3. Preconventional
4. Postconventional

Answer: _____

9. The nurse researcher is planning to use systems theory as a basis for a study. For which reason might the use of this theory be problematic?

1. The phenomenon needs to be identified.
2. The population of study needs to be defined.
3. The issue to be studied needs to be identified.
4. The environmental factors are unknown.

Answer: _____

Multiple Response

10. The nurse researcher is reviewing theories to support an upcoming study. Which type of nursing theory should the nurse consider? Select all that apply.

1. Naming
2. Predictive
3. Legitimate
4. Prescriptive
5. Situation-depicting

Answer: _____

11. The nurse researcher is selecting a theory as a basis for a study. On which aspects should the nurse focus to determine if a particular theory is applicable to nursing practice? Select all that apply.

1. Clarity
2. Adequacy
3. Consistency
4. Reality convergence
5. Logical development

Answer: _____

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12. The nurse researcher is reviewing theories that can be used for a study. Which action should the nurse take when evaluating the theories? Select all that apply.

1. Identify the origin
2. Determine logical congruence
3. Ensure the presence of a unique focus
4. Review for comprehensiveness of content
5. Validate the contribution to nursing knowledge

Answer: _____

13. The nurse researcher is identifying a systems theory for a study. Which principle should the nurse expect to be fulfilled when using this theory? Select all that apply.

1. Wholeness
2. Deontology
3. Equifinality
4. Hierarchical order
5. Progressive differentiation

Answer: _____

14. The nurse researcher wants to use a systems theory as the basis for a study. On which subject or population should the nurse focus this study? Select all that apply.

1. Organizations
2. Disease processes
3. Groups of people
4. Healthcare delivery
5. Nursing care delivery

Answer: _____

15. The nurse is determining the best framework on which to base personal practice. Which action should the nurse take when selecting this framework? Select all that apply.

1. Evaluate personal education level
2. Look at the assumptions of the model
3. Review the literature about the different models of practice
4. Select two or three frameworks that are consistent with personal beliefs
5. Compare the frameworks according to patient focus, nursing actions, and outcomes

Answer: _____

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Questions, Answers, and Rationales

Multiple Choice

1. The nurse researcher is planning a research study. For which reason should the nurse identify a theory as a basis of this study before proceeding?

1. It can represent graphically the phenomenon being studied.
2. It can explain how the definitions within the study are linked.
3. It can identify a broader scope of the phenomenon being studied.
4. It can validate the application of the theory to the nursing knowledge base.

ANS: 4
Page: 21

	Feedback
1.	This is incorrect. A model is a graphic representation of the phenomenon being studied. This is not the reason a theory is identified as a basis for a study.
2.	This is incorrect. Definitions within a theory are concepts which are linked through constructs. However, this is not the reason a theory is selected as a basis before completing a study.
3.	This is incorrect. A conceptual model or framework is a broader scope of the phenomenon being studied and is not the reason a theory is selected as a basis for a study.
4.	This is correct. A theory is selected so that is can be evaluated for potential use in nursing practice.

2. The nurse researcher is analyzing the use of a theory as a basis for a study. For which reason should the nurse outline the phenomenon being studied with words, symbols, and lines?

1. To identify the population of interest for the study
2. To reduce the need to define the parts of the theory
3. To display the components and relationships of the theory
4. To reduce the amount of work needed to explain the theory

ANS: 3
Page: 21

	Feedback
1.	This is incorrect. Using a model to outline the phenomenon being studied with

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	words, symbols, and lines is not done to identify the population of interest for the study. The population of interest is identified through a conceptual model or framework.
2.	This is incorrect. A model is not used to reduce the need to define the parts of the theory.
3.	This is correct. A model is a graphic representation of some phenomenon that can be explained through the use of words, symbols, and lines.
4.	This is incorrect. A model is not used to reduce the amount of work needed to explain the theory.

3. The nurse researcher is designing a study. For which reason should the nurse avoid using a conceptual model or framework instead of a theory as a basis for the study?

1. A conceptual model provides a broad scope of the propositions.
2. A conceptual model uses a graphic representation for the phenomenon.
3. A conceptual model limits the interpretation of the intent of the theory.
4. A conceptual model explains the phenomenon as the focus of the theory.

ANS: 1
Page: 21

	Feedback
1.	This is correct. A conceptual model represents some phenomenon of interest; however, the concepts and propositions are broad in scope, less defined, and less specific to the phenomenon of concern.
2.	This is incorrect. A model provides a graphic representation of the phenomenon.
3.	This is incorrect. A framework limits the use of words and narrative; however, this is not the reason it should not be used as a basis for the study.
4.	This is incorrect. In a conceptual model or framework, the concepts are abstract, general, and cannot be directly observed in the real world. The phenomenon cannot be specifically identified in the conceptual model or framework.

4. The nurse would like to use a conceptual model as a basis for a study. Which needs to occur before the model can be viewed as a viable theory?

1. The generalities of the concepts should be explained.
2. The broad scope of the concepts should be described.
3. The groups to which the concepts apply should be identified.
4. The interrelatedness of the concepts should be demonstrated.

ANS: 4
Page: 20

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	Feedback
1.	This is incorrect. A conceptual model is abstract and general. For the model to evolve into a theory, the concepts should be further defined.
2.	This is incorrect. A conceptual model is already broad in scope. For the model to evolve into a theory, the concepts should be further defined.
3.	This is incorrect. A conceptual model is already unlimited to the individuals or group to which it applies. For the model to evolve into a theory, application to a specific group should be narrowed.
4.	This is correct. A theory can evolve from a conceptual model as concepts are further defined and interrelated to an aspect of reality.

5. The nurse researcher is planning to use Maslow's hierarchy of needs as the theory for a study. Which need should the nurse identify as the base for the entire hierarchy?

1. Safety
2. Physiologic
3. Self-actualization
4. Love and belonging

ANS: 2
Page: 24

	Feedback
1.	This is incorrect. The need for safety is a higher need in Maslow's hierarchy of needs.
2.	This is correct. The base of Maslow's hierarchy of needs are physiological needs or drives.
3.	This is incorrect. Self-actualization is the highest level in Maslow's hierarchy of needs.
4.	This is incorrect. Love and belonging is a need that occurs after the need for safety is fulfilled.

6. The nurse researcher is considering the use of a developmental theory for a study. Which should the nurse identify as a characteristic of these types of theories?

1. They are based upon a specific population.
2. They focus on personality development.
3. They progress through stages in the life cycle.
4. They are developed through mathematical validation.

ANS: 3

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Page: 26

	Feedback
1.	This is incorrect. Developmental theories use a life-span perspective. They are not based upon a specific population.
2.	This is incorrect. One type of developmental theories focuses on personality development. Others focus on cognition and moral development.
3.	This is correct. Common to the developmental theories are predictable steps or stages through which an individual progresses during the life cycle.
4.	This is incorrect. Developmental theories are based on research through observation or case studies and not through mathematical validation.

7. The nurse researcher is designing a study that focuses on the personality development of school-age children. Whose theory would the nurse select as a basis for this study?

1. Piaget
2. Erikson
3. Johnson
4. Kohlberg

ANS: 2
Page: 26

	Feedback
1.	This is incorrect. Piaget developed a theory that focuses on cognitive development.
2.	This is correct. Erikson developed a theory of psychosocial personality development in which an individual progresses through critical periods in a step-by-step process.
3.	This is incorrect. Johnson developed a systems theory.
4.	This is incorrect. Kohlberg developed a theory that focuses on moral development.

8. While analyzing data collected during a study using Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, the nurse researcher notes that several participants follow a fixed set of rules as stated by the parents. In which level of development would the nurse classify these participants?

1. Conventional
2. Preoperational
3. Preconventional
4. Postconventional

ANS: 3
Page: 28

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	Feedback
1.	This is incorrect. In Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, conventional is the second level and is characterized by considering the motives of others when determining right from wrong and taking the good of society into consideration.
2.	This in incorrect. Preoperational is a period of development within Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development.
3.	This is correct. In Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, preconventional is the first level and is characterized by using a fixed set of rules from authorities, such as parents.
4.	This is incorrect. In Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, postconvention is the last level and is characterized by upholding laws and following the principles of justice and human rights as an ethical system.

9. The nurse researcher is planning to use systems theory as a basis for a study. For which reason might the use of this theory be problematic?

1. The phenomenon needs to be identified.
2. The population of study needs to be defined.
3. The issue to be studied needs to be identified.
4. The environmental factors are unknown.

ANS: 4
Page: 28

	Feedback
1	This is incorrect. Identifying the phenomenon would not be problematic when using systems theory.
2	This is incorrect. Defining the population to be studied would not be problematic when using systems theory.
3	This is incorrect. Identifying the issue to be studied would not be problematic when using systems theory.
4	This is correct. When using systems theory, problems occur when the environmental factors are unknown, unclear, or ignored.

Multiple Response

10. The nurse researcher is reviewing theories to support an upcoming study. Which type of nursing theory should the nurse consider? Select all that apply.

1. Naming
2. Predictive

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3. Legitimate
4. Prescriptive
5. Situation-depicting

ANS: 1, 2, 4, and 5
Page: 23

	Feedback
1	This is correct. In nursing, theory is further differentiated into levels. Naming is one of the levels of nursing theory that should be considered.
2	This is correct. In nursing, theory is further differentiated into levels. Predictive is one of the levels of nursing theory that should be considered.
3	This is incorrect. Determining if a theory is legitimate is a step in the evaluation of a theory.
4	This is correct. In nursing, theory is further differentiated into levels. Prescriptive is one of the levels of nursing theory that should be considered.
5	This is correct. In nursing, theory is further differentiated into levels. Situation-depicting is one of the levels of nursing theory that should be considered.

11. The nurse researcher is selecting a theory as a basis for a study. On which aspects should the nurse focus to determine if a particular theory is applicable to nursing practice? Select all that apply.

1. Clarity
2. Adequacy
3. Consistency
4. Reality convergence
5. Logical development

ANS: 1, 2, 3, and 5
Page: 23

	Feedback
1	This is correct. To determine the applicability of a theory to nursing practice, internal criticism should be evaluated. This includes analyzing the theory for clarity.
2	This is correct. To determine the applicability of a theory to nursing practice, internal criticism should be evaluated. This includes analyzing the theory for adequacy.
3	This is correct. To determine the applicability of a theory to nursing practice, internal criticism should be evaluated. This includes analyzing the theory for consistence.
4	This is incorrect. To determine the applicability of a theory to nursing practice, internal criticism should be evaluated. Analyzing a theory for reality convergence is an action completed when a theory is being externally criticized.

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5	This is correct. To determine the applicability of a theory to nursing practice, internal criticism should be evaluated. This includes analyzing the theory for logical development.

12. The nurse researcher is reviewing theories that can be used for a study. Which action should the nurse take when evaluating the theories? Select all that apply.

1. Identify the origin
2. Determine logical congruence
3. Ensure the presence of a unique focus
4. Review for comprehensiveness of content
5. Validate the contribution to nursing knowledge

ANS: 1, 2, 4, and 5
Page: 23

	Feedback
1	This is correct. Evaluation of a theory requires judgments to be made about which nursing model satisfies certain criteria. The origin of the theory is the first step in the evaluation of a theory.
2	This is correct. Evaluation of a theory requires judgments to be made about which nursing model satisfies certain criteria. Logical congruence is the third step in the evaluation of a theory.
3	This is incorrect. Unique focus is the second step in the analysis of a theory. Theory analysis means the model is described and examined nonjudgmentally.
4	This is correct. Evaluation of a theory requires judgments to be made about which nursing model satisfies certain criteria. Comprehensiveness of content is the second step in the evaluation of a theory.
5	This is correct. Evaluation of a theory requires judgments to be made about which nursing model satisfies certain criteria. Contributions to nursing knowledge is the last step in the evaluation of a theory.

13. The nurse researcher is identifying a systems theory for a study. Which principle should the nurse expect to be fulfilled when using this theory? Select all that apply.

1. Wholeness
2. Deontology
3. Equifinality
4. Hierarchical order
5. Progressive differentiation

ANS: 1, 3, 4, and 5

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Page: 28

	Feedback
1	This is correct. A principle of general systems theory is that of wholeness. This indicates that the whole is more than the sum of its parts.
2	This is incorrect. Deontology is an ethical theory and is not a principle of systems theory.
3	This is correct. A principle of general systems theory is that of equifinality. This means that the final state can be reached from different initial conditions and in different ways.
4	This is correct. A principle of general systems theory is that of hierarchical order. This means that some form of hierarchy exists in the system's components, structure, and functions.
5	This is correct. A principle of general systems theory is that of progressive differentiation. This means that differentiation within the system leads to self-organization.

14. The nurse researcher wants to use a systems theory as the basis for a study. On which subject or population should the nurse focus this study? Select all that apply.

1. Organizations
2. Disease processes
3. Groups of people
4. Healthcare delivery
5. Nursing care delivery

ANS: 1, 3, 4, and 5
Page: 28

	Feedback
1	This is correct. In nursing, systems theory has been used to explain organizations.
2	This is incorrect. In nursing, systems theory has not been used to explain disease processes.
3	This is correct. In nursing, systems theory has been used to explain groups of people.
4	This is correct. In nursing, systems theory has been used to explain healthcare delivery.
5	This is correct. In nursing, systems theory has been used to explain nursing care delivery.

15. The nurse is determining the best framework on which to base personal practice. Which action should the nurse take when selecting this framework? Select all that apply.

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1. Evaluate personal education level
2. Look at the assumptions of the model
3. Review the literature about the different models of practice
4. Select two or three frameworks that are consistent with personal beliefs
5. Compare the frameworks according to patient focus, nursing actions, and outcomes

ANS: 2, 3, 4, and 5
Page: 30-31

	Feedback
1	This is incorrect. Personal education level does not need to be evaluated when selecting a framework for practice.
2	This is correct. One recommendation when selecting a framework for practice is to look at the assumptions of the model.
3	This is correct. One recommendation when selecting a framework for practice is to review the literature about the different models of practice.
4	This is correct. One recommendation when selecting a framework for practice is to select two or three frameworks that are consistent with personal beliefs.
5	This is correct. One recommendation when selecting a framework for practice is to compare the frameworks according to patient focus, nursing actions, and outcomes.

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