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Chapter Two Test Bank

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statements about theory is true?
    a. A theory is an organized set of statements that explains some phenomenon.
    b. A theory is an organized set of statements that explains some phenomenon.
    c. Theories are abstract ideas that are subject to rules of logic and organization.
    d. All of the above are true.
    e. Only statements A and B are true.

    Answer: D

2. A theory consists of all of the following parts, EXCEPT:
    a. An intellectual tradition
    b. Focus assumptions
    c. Operational definitions
    d. Claims
    e. Concepts

    Answer: C

3. To help us understand how parents' disclosures about divorce influence their children's well-being, Dr. Afifi and her colleagues created a picture that describes different factors that influence parents' decisions to disclose. In other words, Dr. Afifi and her colleagues created:
    a. A model
    b. An intellectual tradition
    c. A conceptual framework
    d. A theory
    e. A paradigm

    Answer: A

4. Whereas a _____ is a group of people who share ideas about the communication process, a _____ is the set of ideas that they share.
    a. Pool of intellectuals; conceptual framework
    b. Pool of intellectuals; conceptual framework
    c. Consortium; conceptual framework
    d. School of thought; theory
    e. Pool of intellectuals; paradigm

    Answer: B

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5. When theorists attempt to identify the reasons, motives, and interests that underlie behavior (i.e., how and why people act the way they do), their primary objective for developing theory is to provide:
    a. Description
    b. Understanding
    c. Prediction
    d. Reform
    e. Explanation

    Answer: E

6. Relational dialectics theory was developed by Dr. Leslie A. Baxter, a communication professor at the University of Iowa. This fact is part of the theory's:
    a. Conceptual framework
    b. Concepts
    c. Intellectual tradition
    d. Claims
    e. Focus assumptions

    Answer: C

7. Uncertainty reduction theory states that as the amount of uncertainty increases, an individual's tendency to ask questions and seek information increases as well. This statement represents one example of a theory's:
    a. Focus assumptions
    b. Claims
    c. Concepts
    d. Scope assumptions
    e. Intellectual tradition

    Answer: B

8. Which of the following statements about a theory's concepts is true?
    a. Concepts represent specific ideas with explicit definitions attached to them.
    b. Scholars invent a new set of concepts every time they refer to a unique event.
    c. When a theory's concepts are tested, as in a research study, they typically become variables.
    d. All of the above are true.
    e. Only statements A and C are true.

    Answer: E

9. In the post-positivist paradigm, the role of communication is:
    a. Power-laden
    b. Inconsequential
    c. Constitutive
    d. Representational
    e. Experiential

    Answer: D

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10. The branch of philosophy that is concerned with how we know what it is we know is referred to as:
    a. Ontology
    b. Axiology
    c. Epistemology
    d. Methodology
    e. Etymology

    Answer: C

11. All of the following statements are examples of claims, EXCEPT:
    a. If a Hollywood actress discovers that her spouse has been unfaithful, then she will file for divorce.
    b. Divorce is a formal separation of two married partners according to established customs.
    c. Celebrity divorces are caused by the intense stress and pressure of the movie industry.
    d. If a Hollywood marriage begins prior to both partners turning 25 years of age, then the couple will be more likely to divorce.
    e. If a Hollywood marriage begins prior to both partners turning 25 years of age, then the couple will be more likely to divorce.

    Answer: B

12. Which school of thought believes only in what can be directly observed or experienced with the senses?
    a. Post-positivist scholars
    b. Interpretive scholars
    c. Critical scholars
    d. Post-modern scholars
    e. Neo-Aristotelian scholars

    Answer: A

13. Dr. Trethewey looked at how firefighters socially construct risks and hazards in ways that align closely with their preferred identities as professionals who want nothing more than to "get it on" with fire. She conducted her study within which of the following paradigms?
    a. The post-positivist paradigm
    b. The critical paradigm
    c. The postmodern paradigm
    d. The new age paradigm
    e. The interpretive paradigm

    Answer: E

14. When a communication theory seeks to understand the subjective experiences of others, it seeks to provide:
    a. Predictions
    b. Control
    c. A description
    d. Insight
    e. Reform

    Answer: D

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15. Which of the following purposes of communication theory draws our attention to the ways communication can change the social circumstances of the marginalized or less privileged?
    a. Emancipation
    b. Description
    c. Explanation
    d. Control
    e. Insight

    Answer: A

16. _____ are what theories do for us, whereas _____ are what we do with theories.
    a. Specific purposes; general functions
    b. General functions; specific purposes
    c. General tasks; specific tasks
    d. Specific tasks; general tasks
    e. Unique functions; general purposes

    Answer: B

17. Specific purposes of communication theory may include all of the following, EXCEPT:
    a. Prediction
    b. Explanation
    c. Organization
    d. Emancipation
    e. Praxis and problem-solving

    Answer: C

18. After reading structuration theory, Dr. Schrodt and his colleagues applied concepts from the theory to examine how divorced parents negotiate their financial responsibilities and visitations with their children. This example best illustrates which general function of communication theory?
    a. Explanation
    b. Research stimulation
    c. Praxis and problem-solving
    d. Emancipation
    e. Organization

    Answer: B

19. Communication Privacy Management theory helps us understand *why* sexually abused children tell some people about their abuse, and not others. In doing so, the theory seeks to provide:
    a. A description
    b. Predictions and control
    c. Emancipation
    d. Organization
    e. An explanation

    Answer: E

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20. All of the following statements about *interpretive* scholars are true, EXCEPT:
    a. They assume that we come to know the world through our own unique points of view and positions.
    b. They believe that communication is that which creates, composes, and enacts our experience.
    c. They assume that the world we live in is a world of our own making.
    d. They strive to maintain an objective, value-neutral position when studying social behavior.
    e. They consider knowledge to be subjective.

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TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS

1. A model explains a process, whereas a theory describes a process.
   False

2. The goal of the critical paradigm is to critique existing power structures and work toward human empowerment.
   True

3. In the interpretive paradigm, researchers operate as advocates for social change.
   False

4. We cannot have a communication theory without a conceptual framework.
   True

5. The practice of anticipating future events is referred to as *research stimulation*.
   False

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FILL IN THE BLANK QUESTIONS

1. Any concept whose properties can vary is referred to as a _____.
   Variable

2. A theory's _____ assumptions refer to the breadth of topics it covers, whereas a theory's _____ assumptions refer to the applicability of their coverage in different contexts.
   Focus, scope

3. Communication theories include a vocabulary of defined terms, or a _____.
   Conceptual framework

4. Post-positivists typically adopt a _____ ontology that assumes that the world is "out there" waiting to be discovered, known, and explored.
   Realist

5. An epistemology that assumes that we come to know the world through our own unique points of view and positions is referred to as _____.
   Subjectivist

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ESSAY QUESTIONS

Short Essay Questions

1. Identify and briefly describe the four identifiable parts of every communication theory.
   Comprehension

2. How are communication models different from communication theories?
   Analysis

3. Identify and describe three general functions that all good theories perform for the people who use them.
   Comprehension

4. List seven specific purposes that theories can have. Then, identify which purposes are most likely accomplished by *post-positivist theories*, by *interpretive theories*, and by *critical theories*, respectively.
   Knowledge and comprehension

5. Compare and contrast a *realist* ontology with a *social constructionist* ontology. What implications does adopting one view of reality over the other have for our investigations of human communication?
   Analysis

Long Essay Questions

1. Identify and describe three paradigms that encompass the vast majority of theories in the communication field. In your well-written essay, be sure to address the following:
   a. What are the ontological and epistemological positions of each paradigm?
      Knowledge
   b. How does each paradigm view the role of the researcher?
      Comprehension
   c. How does each paradigm view the role of communication?
      Comprehension
   d. Finally, if you were to become a communication theorist, which paradigm would you most likely adopt and why?
      Application

2. Compare and contrast the term *theory* with the terms *conceptual framework*, *model*, and *paradigm*. Define each term and discuss why the first term is distinct from the other three terms. Then, explain how conceptual frameworks, models, and paradigms work in the development of a theory.
   Analysis

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