Introducing Communication Theory 6th edition West Test Bank

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Chapter 02
Thinking about the Field: Traditions and Contexts

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The _____ context of communication pertains to speaking and persuasion.
A. mass/media
B. public/rhetorical
C. cultural
D. interpersonal

2. Which of the following statements most accurately encapsulates the view held by the semiotic tradition?
A. Meaning is achieved when we share a common language.
B. Meanings are passed down from previous generations and do not change.
C. Meaning resides in the words we use to express our ideas.
D. All of the answers are correct.

3. The environment in which communication takes place is called the
A. perspective
B. tradition
C. context
D. situation

4. The belief that behavior is influenced by one or more variables and can therefore be studied using experiments to uncover patterns is espoused by which tradition in the field of communication?
A. the socio-physiological tradition
B. the socio-cultural tradition
C. the socio-phenomenological tradition
D. the socio-psychological tradition

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5. Small group communication research focuses on
A. task groups
B. successful groups
C. social groups
D. All of the answers are correct.

6. The _____ experiments indicated that environmental conditions and interpersonal relationships influence employee output.
A. Denning
B. Stockman
C. Oppenheim
D. Hawthorne

7. Most organizations have a clearly defined
A. whistle-blower
B. agenda
C. life space
D. hierarchy

8. Co-cultures are
A. cultures that compete for influence over a common set of people
B. groups of individuals who are part of the same larger culture, but who create opportunities of their own
C. groups of individuals who strive to understand unfamiliar cultures, but who fail to arrive at common conclusions about these cultures
D. cultures that influence individuals to help others

9. Communication apprehension
A. is also known as the fear of speaking before an audience
B. research has been examined across communication contexts
C. can be reduced
D. All of the answers are correct.

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10. _____ is defined as a speaker's available means of persuading his or her audience.
A. Propaganda
B. Rhetoric
C. Communication metamorphosis
D. Co-cultural communication

11. The exchange of multiple perspectives in a small group is known as _____ and explains why small groups may be more effective at achieving goals than an individual would be.
A. multitasking communication
B. agenda setting
C. group think
D. synergy

12. Which of the following statements is true of intrapersonal communication?
A. It stops the moment a person meets another individual.
B. It is non-repetitive in nature.
C. People who engage in it are prohibited from making attributions about others.
D. People engage in it many times a day.

13. Which tradition in the field of communication relates to the influence of pre-existing shared cultural patterns and social structures on interactions?
A. the enviro-cultural tradition
B. the psycho-social tradition
C. the socio-cultural tradition
D. the inter-social tradition

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14. Investigating the origins of relationships, the maintenance of relationships, and the dissolution of relationships characterizes the _____ communication context.
A. intrapersonal
B. interpersonal
C. small group
D. power relationship

15. _____ are communication patterns through which information flows.
A. Branches
B. Domains

C. Networks
D. Synergies

16. _____ communication is usually more repetitive than other types of communication.
A. Organizational
B. Interpersonal
C. Intrapersonal
D. Rhetorical

17. Which of the following is the minimum number of individuals required to initiate small group communication?
A. two
B. three
C. four
D. five

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18. The growth of scholarship and research in the intercultural context can be attributed to
A. globalization
B. technological change
C. population shifts
D. All of the answers are correct.

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19. Research on romantic relationships in the workplace would be simultaneously considering which two contexts?
A. intrapersonal and intercultural contexts
B. small group and mass communication contexts
C. organizational and interpersonal contexts
D. public/rhetorical and organizational contexts

20. Which of the following is NOT given as an example of research related to the mass communication context?
A. online dating sites
B. e-mail flaming
C. sex on prime-time TV
D. use of humor in conversation

True/False Questions

21. Mass communication allows only senders to exercise control over the communication process.
FALSE

22. Intercultural communication is concerned only with the communication between individuals from different countries.
FALSE

23. Most researchers agree that small group communication should ideally involve a maximum of seven individuals.
FALSE

24. If I say to myself, "He looks tired today," I am engaging in intrapersonal communication.
TRUE

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25. Critiquing the social order is at the heart of the critical tradition.
TRUE

26. New media includes the Internet, cell phone usage, and high-definition (HD) television.
TRUE

27. Some communication scholarship can trace its roots back as far as early Roman and Greek times.
TRUE

28. Communication apprehension is the fear that communication research is not a legitimate scholarly discipline.
FALSE

29. Those who adhere to the socio-psychological tradition of communication theory uphold a cause–effect model of communication.
TRUE

Essay Questions

30. Select one of the seven traditions in the field of communication to define and discuss. Provide examples of the kind of research that is done in that tradition, making sure it is clear how and why those examples illustrate the main focus and concerns of that tradition.

Answers will vary.

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31. Define the term context, and discuss how it is related to the study of communication.

Answers will vary.

32. Identify and define the two most important components of small group behavior.

Answers will vary.

33. Argue for or against the following proposition: The communication discipline should establish one core communication theory.

Answers will vary.

34. Provide three examples of communication phenomena that may be studied in more than one context. Specify to which contexts they might be relevant, and how researchers would differ in their approaches across those contexts.

Answers will vary.

35. Do you feel that each of the seven contexts of communication is a "legitimate" area of research? If yes, briefly explain why you feel each is legitimate. If no, explain which contexts you feel are not legitimate areas and why.

Answers will vary.

36. Which of the seven contexts do you feel is most important and relevant to everyday life? In your answer, be sure to explain why you feel this way using specific examples to support your thesis.

Answers will vary.

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37. Identify and discuss an example from your life where you feel a better understanding of the research associated with one of the seven contexts of communication could have helped you better deal with a particular problem or situation.

Answers will vary.

38. Do you think communication should really be considered its own discipline, or do you feel it is just a loose collection of concepts from other fields? In your response, be sure to support your thesis with specific examples.

Answers will vary.

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