# *Production of Reality Essays and Readings on Social Interaction 6th edition OBrien Test Bank*

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## Part II: Language and Self-Awareness

**Essay: *Shared Meaning Is the Basis of Humanness***

1. If someone kicks you in the knee, your response is most likely to depend on:
    a. their intention and motivation
    b. your level of health insurance
    c. whether you are in pain
    *d. how you interpret the incident

2. According to the basic premises of symbolic interactionism, which of the following individuals has the least potential of behaving as a social human being?
    a. A 50-year-old shipwrecked sailor who has been alone on an island for 20 years.
    b. A convicted rapist and murderer.
    *c. An adult afflicted with brain damage that has impaired her ability for language use and memory.
    d. An adult who has lost his ability to see and hear.

3. Which of the following is NOT one of Blumer's premises of symbolic interactionism?
    a. Human beings act toward the physical objects and other beings in their environment on the basis of the meanings those things have for them.
    *b. Human beings hold objective perspectives of environmental meanings.
    c. Meanings derive from the social interaction between and among individuals.
    d. Meanings are established and modified through an interpretive process.

4. According to the author, there is nothing inherently distasteful about spit. Many people tend to react negatively to the thought of drinking spit because:
    *a. the meanings we attach to the object named spit are negative.
    b. human saliva is more pungent than the saliva of other mammals.
    c. once saliva goes outside of the mouth, it is not meant to go back in.
    d. drinking spit is nauseating.

5. A flag is a symbol not only of the nation "for which it stands" but for the social convention of:
    a. schooling funded by public taxes
    *b. dividing the world into mutually exclusive geopolitical units
    c. serving time in the peace corps
    d. asking our leaders to donate their time to charitable activities

6. The primary way by which humans exchange symbolic meaning is through:
    a. exchange
    b. dissolution
    *c. language
    d. farce

7. Studies of "feral children" (those raised in isolation from human interaction) show us that:
    *a. social intercourse is necessary for the development of language and intellectual activity
    b. feral children as the same as other children
    c. social intercourse is necessary for the development of survival instincts
    d. feral children have more violent tendencies than other children

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8. If you hear a story about a secretary and assume the secretary is female, you are relying on:
    a. prejudice
    b. past experience
    c. cultural referents
    *d. default assumptions

9. Humans negotiate abstract meaning with others and with themselves through:
    *a. language
    b. time
    c. space
    d. computation

**Short answer/essay options**

Identify the three premises of symbolic interactionism as they were described by Blumer (1969) and provide a scenario example for each.

Identify a profession/occupation that relies on the use of symbols and then discuss some of the specific ways in which this occurs.

**Reading: *That Powerful Drop***

1. Which of the following statements is true in the Hughes' piece *The Powerful Drop*?
    a. The reading discusses abolition.
    b. The reading discusses prohibition.
    c. The reading discusses the social construction of gender.
    *d. The reading discusses the social construction of notions of race.

2. Based on the Hughes' reading (*The Powerful Drop*), which of the following best describes the idea of racial identification?
    a. If one of your parents was black and one white then you are considered biracial.
    b. If your skin appears to be white then you are considered white.
    c. If your skin appears to have some pigmentation to it then you are considered black.
    *d. If you have one drop of black blood in your ancestry then you are considered to be black.

3. Which of the following authors wrote about the "one drop" of blood rule?
    a. Langston Hughes*
    b. Ernst Claster
    c. Oliver Sacks
    d. Jodi O'Brien

4. What was the name of the character reading the newspaper in *The Powerful Drop*?
    a. Brian
    b. Simple*
    c. Charming
    d. John

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5. Which of the following race/ethnicities was not discussed in *The Powerful Drop*?
   a. Negro
   b. Native American*
   c. Jewish
   d. Irish

**Reading: *A Clue to the Nature of Man: The Symbol***

1. Cassirer (*A Clue to the Nature of Man: The Symbol*) suggests the need to extend the classical definition of man beyond which of the following?
   a. animal rationale
   *b. animal emotionale
   c. Homo sapiens
   d. Homo erectus

2. If, as Cassirer (*A Clue to the Nature of Man: The Symbol*) states, the symbolic system mediates the receptor and effector systems, then:
   a. all people should react to the same stimulus in a similar way.
   b. a person's reaction to a stimulus will depend on the meaning of that stimulus.
   *c. people with the same symbolic system always react to the same stimulus in the same way.
   d. people will respond in a rational way to the same stimulus.

3. According to Cassirer:
   a. humans are always rational.
   *b. humans are rarely rational.
   c. humans are both rational and irrational.
   d. humans are always irrational.

4. Cassirer (*A Clue to the Nature of Man: The Symbol*) suggests that instead of defining man as an *animal rational*, we should define him as which of the following?
   a. *Homo sapiens*
   b. *Homo erectus*
   c. animal emotionale
   *d. animal symbolicum

5. According to Cassirer (*A Clue to the Nature of Man: The Symbol*), which of the following is part of the symbolic universe?
   *a. language
   b. art
   c. religion
   d. all of the above

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**Reading: *Yes, Father-Sister***

1. In *Yes, Father-Sister*, which of the following is *not* a listed response to Mrs. B's personality changes?
   a. The nurses said Mrs B. was "a riot."
   b. Her friends felt she no longer cared about anything at all.
   c. The doctor suggested she had been "de-souled."
   *d. Her husband felt betrayed by her perceived inattention.

2. In *Yes, Father-Sister*, which of the following best characterizes Mrs. B's disorder?
   a. An inability to create abstract ideas
   b. An inability to determine good from evil, beautiful from ugly
   c. An inability to see how things relate to one another or oneself
   *d. A loss of the brain function that computes and categorizes objects.

3. In *Yes, Father-Sister*, what type of illness did Mrs. B have?
   a. schizophrenia
   *b. cerebral tumor
   c. heart disease
   d. bipolar disorder

4. In *Yes, Father-Sister*, which of the following best describes the behavior of Mrs. B?
   a. angry, hostile
   b. paranoid
   *c. high-spirited, funny
   d. depressed

5. In *Yes, Father-Sister*, what was Mrs. B's former profession?
   a. librarian
   b. waitress
   c. teacher
   *d. chemist

**Reading: *Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation***

1. Which of the following is true about Anna and Isabelle (*Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation* by Davis)?
   a. Neither developed the capacity to engage in symbolic interaction.
   b. Anna had a low IQ while Isabelle did not.
   c. Isabelle progressed much more rapidly than Anna because she had more contact with other humans at an earlier age.
   *d. Intensive training helped Isabelle to quickly pass through the developmental stages and acquire language.

2. Which of the following appears to be the key to "recovering" feral children?
   a. Sports
   *b. Language
   c. Music
   d. Art

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3. What were the names of the two children that were profiled in *Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation*?
   a. Jimmy and John
   b. John and Isabelle
   c. Isabelle and Jimmy
   *d. Anna and Isabelle

4. Which of the following best summarizes the research into Isabelle's case in *Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation*?
   *a. Extreme isolation up to age six does not prevent subsequent acquisition of language.
   b. Extreme isolation up to age six does prevent subsequent acquisition of language and culture.
   c. Isabelle's case is not illustrative because it is believed that she was intellectually disabled.
   d. None of the above.

5. What distinguished Anna's case from Isabelle's case in the *Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation* reading?
   a. Anna was able to catch up developmentally after being discovered.
   *b. Isabelle reached a normal speech level by age eight-and-a-half years.
   c. Neither of the girls were able to attain language after being discovered.
   d. Both girls acquired normal speech patterns within the first year after discovery.

**Reading: *Mindfulness and Mindlessness***

1. When "mindless," people treat information as:
   *a. context-free
   b. critical to the situation
   c. existing in more than one category
   d. something to meditate upon

2. Langer describes "mindlessness" as all of the following, except:
   a. trapped by categories
   b. automatic behavior
   *c. in specific rationalization
   d. something to meditate upon

3. The creation of new categories is:
   a. a trap
   *b. mindful activity
   c. a type of automatic behavior
   d. a clue that one is acting from a single perspective

4. In the *Mindfulness and Mindlessness* reading, what did the man offer $10,000 for?
   a. a ride to the airport
   b. a diamond ring
   *c. a piece of wood three foot by seven foot
   d. a pitbull

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5. In the *Mindfulness and Mindlessness* reading, what activity was included in Langer's social experiment?
   a. riding a bus
   *b. using a copy machine
   c. buying a magazine
   d. trying on perfume

**Reading: *Metaphors We Live By***

1. Which if the following is stated by Lakoff and Johnson in *Metaphors We Live By*?
   a. There is no truth without an objectivist view.
   b. Metaphor can be understood as the opposite of "imaginative rationality."
   c. Metaphor is mostly irrational in nature.
   *d. Metaphors can be self-fulfilling prophecies.

2. Based on the article *Metaphors We Live By* by Lakoff and Johnson, which of the following statements is NOT true?
   a. Metaphors always emphasize certain features and hide others.
   b. Metaphors can create reality.
   *c. Metaphors are used mostly by people in power.
   d. Metaphors often reflect larger cultural assumptions.

3. According to Lakoff and Johnson, why is it socially and politically dangerous to believe there is no objective truth?
   a. Because this perspective blinds us to the fact that there is objective truth.
   *b. Because many metaphors are imposed upon us by people in power.
   c. Because this perspective will make people give up hope.
   d. Because some metaphors are more accurate than others.

4. In the *Metaphors We Live By* reading, what metaphor do Lakoff and Johnson use for arguments?
   a. love
   *b. war
   c. game
   d. riding a bus

5. Which metaphor do Lakoff and Johnson discuss in *Metaphors We Live By* as being related to the Westernization of cultures throughout the world?
   a. ideas are food
   b. argument is war
   *c. time is money
   d. vitality is a substance

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**Reading: *A Person Paper on Purity in Language***

1. What topic is the focus in *A Person Paper on Purity in Language*?
    a. virginity
    b. gender
    c. sexism
    *d. racism

2. Which of the following best describes *A Person Paper on Purity in Language*?
    a. comedy
    b. biography
    *c. satire
    d. none of the above

3. In addition to racist language, what other topic does Satire discuss in *A Person Paper on Purity in Language*?
    *a. sexist language
    b. classist language
    c. homophobic language
    d. profanity

4. In regard to publishing *A Person Paper on Purity in Language*, what reputation did Satire's friends warn him that he might earn?
    a. that of a sexist
    b. that of a bigot
    c. that of a homophobe
    *d. that of a racist

5. Which of the following is used satirically in *A Person Paper on Purity in Language*?
    a. Holy Bible
    b. poetry
    c. Declaration of Independence
    *d. all of the above

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