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Chapter 2: Theoretical Foundations for the Nursing of Families

Multiple Choice:

1. The nurse reviews potential theories to use as a guide for providing care to a family in the community. What should the nurse keep in mind as a primary function of theory in family nursing?

1. Identifies a specific hypothesis
2. Answers "How?" or "Why?" questions
3. Examines how the concepts create a meaningful pattern
4. Improves nursing services provided to families

2. The nurse reviews a theory for applicability to a family health situation. On which part of the theory should the nurse focus to understand the expected relationship between the theory's concepts?

1. System
2. Hypothesis
3. Propositions
4. Conceptual model

3. The nurse prepares to assess a family according to a family development theory. Which action will the nurse complete first during this assessment?

1. Health of individual members
2. Employment status of the parents
3. Family structure and life cycle stages
4. Education status of the children

4. The nurse is struggling with using a developmental model when assessing a family new to a community. Which data could explain the difficulty the nurse is having using this model?

1. The parental units are same-sexed.
2. The youngest son is beginning college.
3. The middle child is attending high school.
4. The oldest daughter has just gotten married.

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5. The nurse uses the bioecological system theory to assess a family. On which system should the nurse focus to determine the impact of the mother's change in employment?

1. Mesosystem
2. Exosystem
3. Microsystem
4. Macrosystem

6. The nurse reviews the bioecological system theory before discussing this approach with a group of new graduate nurses. What should the nurse explain as the blueprint for the ecology of human and family development?

1. There is no one system that can serve as a blueprint.
2. Macrosystems contain mesosystems and exosystems.
3. The microsystem sets the stage for all future development.
4. Sociohistorical conditions determine developmental progress.

7. The nurse works in an environment in which a family therapy theory serves as the model for assessing and planning care. Which data should the nurse expect when assessing the family?

1. Pathology
2. Health problem
3. Illness treatment
4. Normal trajectory

Multiple Response:

8. The nurse selects the family systems theory as a guide for providing care to a family. Which concept of this theory should the nurse use to maintain the stability of this family? Select all that apply.

1. The whole is more than the sum of its parts.
2. All parts of the system are interconnected.
3. Families develop and change over time.
4. Systems can be organized into subsystems.
5. There is a boundary between the system and the environment.

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9. The nurse learns that the father of a family passed away at age 41. How should the nurse classify this family event in relation to family development theory? Select all that apply.

1. On time
2. Off time
3. Normative
4. Conflicting
5. Nonnormative

10. The nurse prepares to employ the family systems theory to assess a family. Which actions will the nurse complete during this assessment? Select all that apply.

1. Complete a family ecomap
2. Determine normative and nonnormative events
3. Complete a family genogram
4. Conduct family member care-planning sessions
5. Collect data on the family and individual members

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Answers:

1. The nurse reviews potential theories to use as a guide for providing care to a family in the community. What should the nurse keep in mind as a primary function of theory in family nursing?

Ans: 4
Page: 27

	Feedback
1.	Theories construct hypotheses, or the question, "What is expected to happen?"
2.	Theories in general explain what is happening. They provide answers to "How?" and "Why?" questions, help to interpret and make sense of complex phenomena, and predict what could happen in the future based on careful thought and study about what has happened in the past.
3.	Theories are designed to make sense of the world by showing how one concept is related to another and how together they make a meaningful pattern that can predict the consequences of certain clusters of characteristics or events.
4.	The primary function of theory in family nursing is to provide knowledge and understanding that improves nursing services to families.

2. The nurse reviews a theory for applicability to a family health situation. On which part of the theory should the nurse focus to understand the expected relationship between the theory's concepts?

Ans: 2
Page: 27

	Feedback
1.	System is not part of a theory.
2.	A hypothesis is a way of stating an expected relationship between concepts or an expected proposition.
3.	Propositions are statements about the proposed relationship between two or more concepts.
4.	A conceptual model is a set of general propositions that integrate concepts into meaningful configurations or patterns.

3. The nurse prepares to assess a family according to a family development theory. Which action will the nurse complete first during this assessment?

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Ans: 3
Page: 39-45

	Feedback
1.	The health of individual members is analyzed according to the impact on the entire family unit.
2.	The employment status of the parents is not a specific feature of family development theory.
3.	When conducting family assessments using the developmental model, nurses begin by determining the family structure and where this family falls in the family life cycle stages.
4.	The children's education is addressed after the family structure and life cycle stage are identified.

4. The nurse is struggling with using a developmental model when assessing a family new to a community. Which data could explain the difficulty the nurse is having using this model?

Ans: 1
Page: 45

	Feedback
1.	A primary criticism of family development theory is that it best describes the trajectory of intact, two-parent, heterosexual nuclear families. It does not consider same-sex couples and normalizes one type of family while ignoring others.
2.	Children leaving home to go to college would be an expected trajectory within the developmental model.
3.	Children progressing through basic education would be an expected trajectory within the developmental model.
4.	Children leaving home or "launching" is an expected trajectory within the developmental model.

5. The nurse uses the bioecological system theory to assess a family. On which system should the nurse focus to determine the impact of the mother's change in employment?

Ans: 2

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	Feedback
1.	Mesosystems are the relationships among major microsystems in which persons or families actively participate, such as families and schools, families and religion, and families with peers.
2.	An exosystem is an external environment that influences an individual and family indirectly, such as the effect of job experience on family life.
3.	Microsystems are the settings in which individuals/families experience and create day-to-day reality. They are the places people inhabit, the people with whom they live, and the things they do together.
4.	Macrosystems are the broad cultural attitudes, ideologies, or belief systems that influence institutional environments within a particular culture/subculture in which individuals/families live.

6. The nurse reviews the bioecological system theory before discussing this approach with a group of new graduate nurses. What should the nurse explain as the blueprint for the ecology of human and family development?

Ans: 2
Page: 45-48

	Feedback
1.	Mesosystems and exosystems, within macrosystems, serve as blueprints.
2.	Mesosystems and exosystems are set within macrosystems, and together they are the “blueprints” for the ecology of human and family development.
3.	The microsystem is the setting for day-to-day reality. It does not serve as a blueprint for the family’s development.
4.	Chronosystems are time-related contexts that affect the other systems and are influenced by sociohistorical conditions.

7. The nurse works in an environment in which a family therapy theory serves as the model for assessing and planning care. Which data should the nurse expect when assessing the family?

Ans: 1
Page: 32

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	Feedback
1.	The target population for family therapy theories is families with pathology or troubled families.
2.	The target population for any nursing theory is families with health problems.
3.	The target population for any nursing theory is families with illness treatment.
4.	The target population for a family social science theory is a “normal” family with an expected trajectory.

8. The nurse selects the family systems theory as a guide for providing care to a family. Which concept of this theory should the nurse use to maintain the stability of this family?

Ans: 1, 2, 4, 5
Page: 36-39

	Feedback
1.	The second concept of the family systems theory is that the whole is more than the sum of its parts. This means that the family as a whole is composed of more than the individual lives of family members. It goes beyond parents and children as separate entities. Families are not just relationships between the parent-child but are all relationships seen together.
2.	The first concept of the family systems theory is that all parts of the system are interconnected. This means that whatever influences one part of the system influences all parts of the system.
3.	The concept that families develop and change over time is a concept associated with family development theories.
4.	The fourth concept of the family systems theory is that systems can be further organized into subsystems. These subsystems identify relationships between family members and are used to create interventions specific to the needs of those members.
5.	The third concept of the family systems theory is that all systems have some form of boundary between the system and the environment. Boundaries are physical or abstract imaginary lines that families use as barriers or filters to control the impact of stressors on the family system.

9. The nurse learns that the father of a family passed away at age 41. How should the nurse classify this family event in relation to family development theory?

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Ans: 5
Page: 42

	Feedback
1.	On time refers to a family transition within family development theory. It is considered to be "on time" when a family unit experiences something that is considered a societal norm, such as being married before having children.
2.	Off time refers to a family transition within family development theory. It is considered to be "off time" when a family unit experiences something that is against a societal norm, such as having children before being married.
3.	*Normative* refers to a predictable change that occurs within a family based on expected developmental steps.
4.	Conflicting is not a term or concept related to family development theory.
5.	*Nonnormative* refers to a change in a family that occurs out of sequence or is caused by an illness or other family event.

10. The nurse prepares to employ the family systems theory to assess a family. Which actions will the nurse complete during this assessment?

Ans: 1, 3, 4, 5
Page: 36-39

	Feedback
1.	A family ecomap is completed to see how individuals and the family relate to the community around them.
2.	Determining normative and nonnormative events is an action completed when following a family development and life cycle theory.
3.	A family genogram is completed to understand patterns and relationships over several generations over time.
4.	Care-planning sessions are held to address the needs of individual members and the family as a whole.
5.	Assessment questions relate to the interaction between the individual and the family, and the interaction between the family and the community in which the family lives.

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