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Chapter 2. Theory as the Basis for Practice

Questions

Multiple Choice

1. 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: _____

2. Which factor is characteristic of a conceptual model or framework?

1. A broad scope of propositions
2. A complex package of some phenomenon
3. Factor naming and factor relating
4. Specification of relations among variables

Answer: _____

3. 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 concepts should be further generalized.
2. The broad scope of the concepts should be described.
3. The groups to which the concepts apply should become more general.
4. The interrelatedness of the concepts should be demonstrated.

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Answer: _____

4. For which reason are variables defined within a study?

1. They can change.
2. They are complex and contain many pieces.
3. They are usually highly abstract.
4. They show how concepts relate to one another.

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. Physiological drives
3. Self-actualization
4. Love and belonging

Answer: _____

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

1. They are based on 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

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2. Erikson
3. Johnson
4. Kohlberg

Answer: _____

8. While analyzing data collected during a study of children 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

Answer: _____

9. The nurse researcher is planning to use systems theory as a basis for a study. Which step should the nurse researcher take to increase the quality of the study?

1. Focus on aspects in isolation
2. Outline predictable stages
3. Account for different basic drives
4. Define environmental factors

Answer: _____

Multiple Response

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

1. Clarity
2. Adequacy

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3. Consistency
4. Reality convergence
5. Logical development

Answer: _____

11. The nurse researcher is identifying a systems theory for a study. Which principle should the nurse address when using this theory? (Select all that apply.)

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

Answer: _____

12. The nurse researcher wants to use a systems theory as the basis for a study. On which subject or population could 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: _____

13. The nurse is determining the best framework on which to base personal practice. Which action should the nurse take when selecting a 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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14. The nurse researcher plans to use Maslow's hierarchy of needs as a basis for study. Which human needs will be addressed after physiological needs are satisfied? (Select all that apply.)

1. Safety
2. Love
3. Sleep
4. Belonging
5. Esteem

Answer: _____

15. The nurse researcher is analyzing data collected using Maslow's Theory of Human Motivation. Which characteristics will be identified in self-actualized participants? (Select all that apply.)

1. Efficient
2. Spontaneous
3. Autonomous
4. Egocentric
5. Ethical

Answer: _____

Questions, Answers, and Rationales

Multiple Choice

1. 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

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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: 22

	Feedback
1.	This is incorrect. Using a model to outline the phenomenon being studied with 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 outlining the phenomenon being studied with words, symbols, and lines 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 outlining the phenomenon being studied with words, symbols, and lines is not used to reduce the amount of work needed to explain the theory.

2. Which factor is characteristic of a conceptual model or framework?

1. A broad scope of propositions
2. A complex package of some phenomenon
3. Factor naming and factor relating
4. Specification of relations among variables

ANS: 1
Page: 22

	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 construct is a more complex idea package of some phenomenon that contains many factors but cannot be truly isolated or confined to a more concrete concept.
3.	This is incorrect. Descriptive theory is a factor-naming and factor-relating theory developed initially to characterize some phenomenon.
4.	This is incorrect. A theory presents a systematic view of phenomena by specifying relations among variables.

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3. 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 concepts should be further generalized.
2. The broad scope of the concepts should be described.
3. The groups to which the concepts apply should become more general.
4. The interrelatedness of the concepts should be demonstrated.

ANS: 4
Page: 23

	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.

4. For which reason are variables defined within a study?

1. They can change.
2. They are complex and contain many pieces.
3. They are usually highly abstract.
4. They show how concepts relate to one another.

ANS: 1
Page: 23

	Feedback
1.	This is correct. A variable is a concept that can change and that contains a set of values that can be measured in a practice or research situation.
2.	This is incorrect. A construct is a more complex idea package of some phenomenon that contains many factors but cannot be truly isolated or confined to a more concrete concept.
3.	This is incorrect. A concept can be something highly concrete, such as a pencil, or something highly abstract, such as quality.

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4.	This is incorrect. A proposition or relational statement shows how concepts are linked in a theory and how they relate to one another and to the total theoretical structure.

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. Physiological drives
3. Self-actualization
4. Love and belonging

ANS: 2
Page: 26

	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 is 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 is a characteristic of these types of theories?

1. They are based on 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
Page: 28

	Feedback
1.	This is incorrect. Developmental theories use a life span perspective. They are not based on a specific population.

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2.	This is incorrect. One type of developmental theories focuses on personality development. Others focus on cognition and moral development.
3.	This is correct. Predictable steps or stages through which an individual progresses during the life cycle are common to developmental theories.
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: 28

	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 of children 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: 31

	Feedback

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1.	This is incorrect. In Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, conventional morality 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 morality 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, postconventional morality 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. Which step should the nurse researcher take to increase the quality of the study?

1. Focus on aspects in isolation
2. Outline predictable stages
3. Account for different basic drives
4. Define environmental factors

ANS: 4
Page: 32

	Feedback
1	This is incorrect. Systems theory is concerned with the system's wholeness rather than its isolated components.
2	This is incorrect. Developmental theories incorporate predictable steps or stages throughout the life cycle.
3	This is incorrect. Maslow's hierarchy of needs can be used to study subjects with varying basic needs.
4	This is correct. When using systems theory, problems occur when the environmental factors are unknown, unclear, or ignored.

Multiple Response

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10. The nurse researcher is selecting a theory as a basis for a study. On which aspects should the nurse focus to determine whether 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, 5
Page: 25

	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.
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.

11. The nurse researcher is identifying a systems theory for a study. Which principle should the nurse address 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, 5
Page: 31

	Feedback

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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.

12. The nurse researcher wants to use a systems theory as the basis for a study. On which subject or population could 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, 5
Page: 32

	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.

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

1. Evaluate personal education level

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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, 5
Page: 33

	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.

14. The nurse researcher plans to use Maslow's hierarchy of needs as a basis for study. Which human needs will be addressed after physiological needs are satisfied? (Select all that apply.)

1. Safety
2. Love
3. Sleep
4. Belonging
5. Esteem

ANS: 1, 2, 4, 5
Page: 26

	Feedback
1	This is correct. After physiological needs are met the individual focuses on emerging higher needs, including safety.
2	This is correct. After physiological needs are met the individual focuses on emerging higher needs, including love.
3	This is incorrect. Sleep will initially be addressed within the hierarchy, as this is a physiological need.
4	This is correct. After physiological needs are met the individual focuses on emerging higher needs, including belonging.

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5	This is correct. After physiological needs are met the individual focuses on emerging higher needs, including esteem.

15. The nurse researcher is analyzing data collected using Maslow's Theory of Human Motivation. Which characteristics will be identified in self-actualized participants? (Select all that apply.)

1. Efficient
2. Spontaneous
3. Autonomous
4. Egocentric
5. Ethical

ANS: 1, 2, 3, 5
Page: 28

	Feedback
1	This is correct. Self-actualized people emerged from Maslow's research and analysis as more efficient and with comfortable perceptions of reality.
2	This is correct. Self-actualized people emerged from Maslow's research and analysis with spontaneity, simplicity, and naturalness in thoughts and behaviors.
3	This is correct. Self-actualized people emerged from Maslow's research and analysis with autonomy with independence of culture and environment.
4	This is incorrect. Self-actualized people emerged from Maslow's research and analysis as problem centered rather than ego centered.
5	This is correct. Self-actualized people emerged from Maslow's research and analysis with strong ethical sense that discriminates means/ends and good/evil.

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