Chapter 2. Theory as the Basis for Practice

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. "A set of interrelated constructs (concepts), definitions, and propositions that present a systematic view of phenomena by specifying relations among variables, with the purpose of explaining and predicting the phenomena" is the definition of a:
   A. Theory
   B. Paradigm
   C. Framework
   D. Phenomena

   ANS: A
   This definition comes from Kerlinger and Lee (2000).

   PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   TOP: Theoretical base

2. *Theory* is defined as "a set of interrelated constructs (concepts), definitions, and propositions that present a systematic view of phenomena by specifying relations among variables, with the purpose of explaining and predicting the phenomena" by:
   A. Piaget
   B. Barnum
   C. Kerlinger and Lee
   D. Erikson and Piaget

   ANS: C
   This definition comes from Kerlinger and Lee (2000).

   PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   TOP: Theoretical base

3. A graphic representation of a phenomenon is a:
   A. Framework
   B. Metaparadigm
   C. Philosophy
   D. Model

   ANS: D
   A model is a graphic representation of some phenomenon. It may be a mathematical model ($A + B = C$) or a diagrammatic model, linking words with symbols and lines. A theoretical model provides a visual description of the theory using limited narrative and displaying components and relationships symbolically.

   PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   TOP: Theoretical base

4. A theory can evolve from a:
   A. Conceptual model
   B. Phenomenon
   C. Philosophy
   D. Paradigm

   ANS: A
   A theory can evolve from a conceptual model or framework as concepts are further defined, specified, tested, and interrelated to represent some aspect of reality.

5. A concept:
    A. Is less complex than a construct
    B. Can be highly concrete or highly abstract
    C. Provides a view we hold about something
    D. All of the above

    ANS: D
    At the simplest level, a concept is a view or idea that we hold about something. It can be something highly concrete, such as a pencil, or something highly abstract, such as quality. The more concrete the concept, the easier it is understood and consistently used.

    PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   TOP: Theoretical base

6. Propositions in a theory are the descriptions and relationship among the constructs that:
    A. Develop a theory that includes factor-isolating
    B. Propose how the concepts are linked and relate to each other
    C. Describe the significance, consistency, and scope of the theory
    D. All of the above

    ANS: B
    Describing and stating the relationships between or among the constructs (or concepts) provides the propositions of a theory. These are also called the relational statements, showing how the concepts are linked in the theory and relate to one another and to the total theoretical structure. They define how the structure is held together.

    PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   TOP: Theoretical base

7. The classification of grand, middle range, or limited applies to:
    A. Phenomena
    B. Quantum theory
    C. Statistical probabilities
    D. Theories

    ANS: D
    Theories are classified according to their scope as grand, middle-range, or limited in scope or practice. This is the breadth of coverage of some phenomena.

    PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   TOP: Theoretical base

8. Theories are classified as grand, middle range, or limited on the base of their:
    A. Purpose
    B. Theoretical base
    C. Interdependence
    D. Scope and breadth

    ANS: D
    Theories are classified according to their scope as grand (broad in scope), middle-range (narrower in scope), or limited in scope or practice (focus on measurable variables and propositions and perhaps applicable to a specific population or group of individuals with a common characteristic).

    PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   TOP: Theoretical base

TRUE/FALSE

1. In research, variables relate to some concept in the theory under study.

   ANS: T
   Variables are changeable concepts that contain a set of values that can be measured in a practice or research situation.

   PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   KEY: Variables

2. Laughlin (2005) proposed that "professional [nursing] practice requires a systematic approach that is focused on the patient, and the theoretical works provide just such perspectives of the patient."

   ANS: F
   This statement comes from Alligood (2010).

   PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   KEY: Practice

3. Theory, practice, and research are interrelated and interdependent.

   ANS: T
   Theory, practice, and research are interrelated and interdependent. When we are selecting a theory on which to base practice, the theory must be compatible and correspond to the phenomena of professional nursing practice.

   PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   KEY: Theory

4. Quantum theory has provided some of the basis for advances in technology.

   ANS: T
   Quantum theory, based on quantum physics, uses statistical probabilities for the actions of atomic and subatomic matter and waves; it has provided some of the basis for advances in technology.

   PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   KEY: Quantum theory

5. Barnum (1990) described early nursing theories: "A high number of [boundary] overlaps occur in the discipline of nursing because it often attempts to deal holistically with a phenomenon (man) that has previously been dealt with in compartmentalized ways by other disciplines."

   ANS: T
   Barnum is the correct person.

   PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   KEY: Barnum

6. Kerlinger and Lee (2000) defined the aims or purpose of theory as describing or explaining some phenomena of interest.

   ANS: T
   Kerlinger and Lee define the aims or purpose of theory as describing or explaining some phenomena of interest. In nursing, theory is further differentiated into levels that describe, explain, predict, and control.

   PTS: 1   DIF: Level 1   KEY: Kerlinger and Lee