

# LCSW<sup>Q&As</sup>

ASWB Clinical Level Social Work Licensing Exam

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### QUESTION 1

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention states that up to 50% of all people who commit suicide have had failed past attempts. Traumatic life events that cause a significant amount of stress and clinical depression are known to be major risk factors behind for suicide. Which of the following is not likely to be a risk factor for suicide?

- A. Family history of mental disorder
- B. Incarceration
- C. Chronic physical illness
- D. Family diversity

Correct Answer: D

Research shows that 90% of all suicides were by individuals suffering from clinical depression or other mental disorders. Substance abuse is usually an additional factor to an already unstable diagnosis. Warning signs that someone is contemplating suicide may include: risk-taking behavior, talking about death, changing a will, and losing interest in things one cares about. Family diversity has not been shown to be a significant issue related to suicide.

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### QUESTION 2

Pamela was robbed at gunpoint one evening as she was walking home from work. The assailant dragged her into an alley and punched her repeatedly in the face. A gun was put to her head and she was ordered to hand over all the jewelry she was wearing. The attacker also got away with her money, credit cards, and cell phone. Six months after this event occurred, Pamela began having flashbacks and frightening dreams. She started demonstrating emotional detachment from family and friends. What type of disorder is Pamela suffering from?

- A. Dissociative identity disorder
- B. Avoidance disorder
- C. Attachment disorder
- D. Post-traumatic stress disorder

Correct Answer: D

Post-traumatic stress disorder will occur after an individual has seen or experienced an event that involved death or injury. Symptoms may occur right after the trauma or could surface six months later. If the symptoms last for a short period of time, one to three months, it is called Acute Stress Disorder.

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### QUESTION 3

One of the principles clinical social workers adhere to in the promotion of social justice is the advocacy for basic human needs. Professionals pursue change on behalf of individuals to expand opportunity and choice.

What group of people should be considered top priority?

- A. Children
- B. Poor and vulnerable individuals
- C. Women
- D. Non-majority ethnic groups

Correct Answer: A

Children are the only group who cannot legally advocate for themselves. As such they are the most vulnerable population and should have priority in the social worker's purview.

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#### QUESTION 4

Nathan is 21 years old and has confided in her clinical social worker about serious behaviors that concern him. He self-reports having hallucinations, paranoia, and disorganized speech. To avoid many of these problems, Nathan has learned to isolate himself from social situations. Additionally, the biopsychosocial history shows a prevalence of mental illness in the family. Since the disorder is mainly affecting cognition, what should the social worker attempt to treat?

- A. Schizophrenia
- B. Dissociative disorder
- C. Bipolar
- D. Alter-ego

Correct Answer: A

Schizophrenia has a typical onset in early adulthood, with cases rarely developing beyond the age of 45. According to the National Institute of Mental Health schizophrenia is a chronic, severe, and disabling brain disorder diagnosed in about 1 percent of the population. People with the disorder may hear voices other people don't hear. They may believe other people are reading their minds, controlling their thoughts, or plotting to harm them. This can terrify people with the illness and make them withdrawn or extremely agitated. People with schizophrenia may not make sense when they talk. They may sit for hours without moving or talking. Sometimes people with schizophrenia seem perfectly fine until they talk about what they are really thinking.

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#### QUESTION 5

Shayla has never owned a dog and fears them greatly. She grew up in the city and only saw dogs from afar when walking past the park. The client has ambitions to become a veterinarian's assistant but cannot complete the task until she overcomes this one hurdle. Which of the following types of therapies could Shayla benefit from?

- A. Cognitive-Behavioral
- B. Phobm
- C. Ego-functional

Correct Answer: A

Shayla could benefit from cognitive-behavioral therapy. Treatments might include desensitization to help Shayla overcome her phobia. The process would take place in steps and eliminate the need for situational avoidance. Other treatments for Shayla might include desensitization and relaxation training.

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