



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

ASWB Clinical Level Social Work Licensing Exam

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### QUESTION 1

This theory, unlike most psychological and behavioral theories, focuses on the inner relational transactions between systems. All existing elements play an equal role in maintaining balance. Which theory describes individuals as being surrounded by supportive networks?

- A. Environmental systems approach
- B. Strength-based theory
- C. Nature vs. nurture theory
- D. Ecological systems perspective

Correct Answer: D

The ecological perspective is based on the idea that people are in continual interaction with their environment. Individuals are always creating, restructuring, and adapting. The ecological theory looks at people, families, cultures, politics, and community as a way to identify systemic strengths or weaknesses.

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### QUESTION 2

A clinical social worker providing services for an elderly woman helps by doing her grocery shopping every week. The client is unable to leave her home and purchase provisions on her own, but she receives food assistance through the Department of Health and Human Services. Every Friday the social worker takes the woman's assistance card and her list of groceries to the local store. A colleague observes the professional buying items on her own list as well. At the cash register, the clinical social worker only provides the elderly woman's assistance card. What should the colleague do next?

- A. Tell the elderly woman what has been happening
- B. Notify the Department of Health and Human Services
- C. Notify the professional's supervisor
- D. Discuss the problem with the clinical social worker

Correct Answer: D

The colleague needs to discuss the problem first with the clinical social worker. If the issue is not rectified, then administration needs to be contacted. All professionals should pursue measures to prevent, discourage, expose or correct unethical conduct. Clinical social workers need to be aware of the policies for professionalism.

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### QUESTION 3

Clinical social workers are often part of power imbalances due to a client needing the professional's services. There is a vulnerability of the client due to his/her trust in the social worker. Occasionally a professional will put their needs above those of the client to gain personally. This is known as what?

- A. Boundary violation



- B. Discrimination of power
- C. Power of limitations D. Non-disclosure

Correct Answer: A

Boundary violations occur when a professional breaches the trust of the client to gain personally or professionally. When clinical social workers step outside their boundaries, the results may include adjudicated violations, arbitration processes, or even criminal court. Professionals are responsible for maintaining a healthy, safe relationship with the client.

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#### QUESTION 4

Clinical social workers will sometimes intentionally allow or create an atmosphere that reminds the client of an emotional past. This psychotherapy method can be harmful if not utilized appropriately. Clients will often react in terms of what they are afraid of or need to see, not really knowing why they feel that way. Professionals use this technique to find connections between the clients' past and how they misread the present. What is the method being described?

- A. Transference
- B. Counter-transference
- C. Histrionic development
- D. Displacement

Correct Answer: A

Transference brings a client's emotional past and psychological needs into the present. The reaction is often caused by neglect, abuse or unmet needs. The clinical social worker will respond in terms of what is really happening in the present. Clients who do not recognize the difference between present and past will often incur the same problems repeatedly.

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#### QUESTION 5

Alan has been providing clinical social work services to a client for two weeks. When the issue of payment as set forth in the signed contract arises, the client is unable to come up with the money. The social worker, however, is offered a free gym membership since the client works at the local fitness center part-time. What is the social worker's next move?

- A. Decline.
- B. Accept the membership as partial payment
- C. Contact an attorney for illegal bartering
- D. Notify a supervisor

Correct Answer: A

Bartering arrangements should be avoided at all times to prevent the potential for exploitation and conflict. All written fee-for-service contracts should be approved and signed by both parties. Alan has the option to work with the client over payment arrangements.

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