Chapter 02
Theoretical Perspectives on Sexuality

1. Sociobiology is defined as the application of _____ biology to understanding the social behavior of animals, including humans.
   A. sociocultural  
   B. normative  
   C. evolutionary  
   D. quantum

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 23

2. Which of the following is true of sociobiology?
   A. It is based on the assumption that human sexuality is the result of culture alone.  
   B. It tries to explain why certain patterns of behavior have evolved in humans.  
   C. It assumes that people are entirely free and responsible for developing their own potential.  
   D. It creates a framework within which the economic stratification of society can be studied.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 23

3. _____ is a theory that all living things have acquired their present forms through gradual changes in their genetic endowment over successive generations.
   A. Existentialism  
   B. Positivism  
   C. Evolution  
   D. Structuralism

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives

4. Evolution occurs via _____, the process by which the animals that are best adapted to their environment are more likely to survive, reproduce, and pass on their genes to the next generation.
   A. existentialism  
   B. cultural relativism  
   C. communal integration  
   D. natural selection

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 23

5. _____ is a process in nature resulting in greater rates of survival of those plants and animals that are adapted to their environment.
   A. Existentialism  
   B. Natural selection  

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives

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C. Structural functionalism
D. Environmentalism

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 23

6. Sociobiologists suggest that the characteristics used to judge a person's attractiveness are indicative of the health and vigor of an individual, which in turn are probably related to the person's ______.
A. social status
B. superego
C. extrinsic values
D. reproductive potential

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 23

7. Which of the following is true of the attachment between an infant and a parent?
A. It has no significance in contemporary societies.
B. It is a biological mechanism that reduces infant vulnerability.
C. It applies only to parents belonging to Western cultures.
D. It has no impact upon the infant's chances of survival.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 24

8. Which of the following statements is true of parental investment?
A. It is rarely beneficial to infants raised in Western societies.
B. It damages an infant's chances of survival in contemporary societies.
C. It refers to the number of offspring that parents can produce each year.
D. It refers to the behavior and resources invested in offspring to ensure their survival.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 25

9. _____ is a specific type of selection identified by Darwin that creates differences between males and females.
A. Sexual selection
B. Individual selection
C. Survival selection
D. Ecological selection
10. Which of the following is a shortcoming of sociobiology?
A. It rests on an outmoded model of evolutionary theory.
B. It includes the survival of the group in its analysis.
C. It fails to value the importance of reproduction in survival.
D. It does not consider the mating preferences of females.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 25

11. Which of the following does sociobiology ignore?
A. the survival of a group and a species
B. the mating preferences of males
C. an individual’s struggle for survival
D. the mating preferences of females

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 25

12. Sociobiology has been criticized because
A. it ignores the competition among members of one gender for mating access to members of the other gender.
B. it assumes that reproduction is the central function of sex.
C. it believes that humans are ruled by their unconscious minds.
D. it does not study the mating preferences of females.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 25

13. According to research analyzing waist-to-hip ratios across a large number of cultures, which of the following is true?
A. The preference for a .70 hip-to-waist ratio by men is hardwired into their brains by evolution.
B. The preference for a .70 hip-to-waist ratio by men has been proven to exist across all cultures.
C. The .70 hip-to-waist ratio is most common in societies where women are economically dependent on men.
D. The .70 hip-to-waist ratio is most common in societies where women are financially independent.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 25

14. _____ is the study of the psychological mechanisms that have been shaped by natural selection.
A. Environmental psychology
B. Structural functionalism
C. Evolutionary psychology
D. Cultural relativism

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 25
15. Which of the following is true of evolutionary psychology?
A. It does not recognize that every observable human characteristic has adaptive significance.
B. It allows for the fact that some traits displayed by humans may be simply "design flaws."
C. It believes that human cognitive structures evolved over the years just as human behavior did.
D. It believes that men and women are identical when it comes to their mating preferences.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 25

16. Evolutionary psychology has been criticized because
A. it does not give weight to the fact that emotional structures have evolved like human behavior.
B. it assumes that every characteristic that we observe must have some adaptive significance.
C. it allows for the fact that some traits displayed by humans may be simply "design flaws."
D. it believes that men and women are identical when it comes to their mating preferences.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 26

17. Psychoanalytic theory was proposed by _____.
A. Sigmund Freud
B. B. F. Skinner
C. Ivan Pavlov
D. Edward Thorndike

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

18. Freud's term for sex drive or sex energy is _____.
A. thanatos
B. superego
C. id
D. libido

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

19. Freud's term for the death instinct is _____.
A. thanatos
20. Freud believed that the two major forces of motivating human behavior are
A. libido and thanatos.
B. id and ego.
C. ego and superego.
D. Oedipus and Electra complex.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

21. According to Freud, which component of human personality operates on the pleasure principle?
A. ego
B. id
C. superego
D. libido

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

22. Which of the following is true of the id according to Freud?
A. It operates on the reality principle.
B. It operates on idealism.
C. It is present only during adulthood.
D. It is a reservoir of psychic energy.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

23. According to Freud, which component of the human personality operates on the reality principle?
A. ego
B. id
C. superego
D. thanatos
24. Which of the following is true of the ego according to Freud?
A. It operates on the pleasure principle.
B. It tries to keep the id in line.
C. It prevents people from being rational.
D. It is a reservoir of psychic energy.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

25. According to Freud, which component of the human personality operates on idealism?
A. ego
B. id
C. superego
D. thanatos

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

26. Which of the following is true of the superego according to Freud?
A. It operates on the reality principle.
B. It operates on the pleasure principle.
C. It is present only during infancy.
D. It is the conscience.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

27. According to Freud, which of the following is true of the three major parts of human personality?
A. The id operates on idealism.
B. The ego is the reservoir of psychic energy.
C. The id focuses on rational, realistic interactions.
D. The superego persuades the ego to strive for moral goals.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26
28. Within the Freudian framework, a nun who takes a vow of celibacy and devotes her life to helping the poor is most likely to have a
A. weak ego.
B. strong id.
C. weak superego.
D. strong superego.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

29. Within the Freudian framework, a married man who has an extramarital affair even though he believes it is immoral is most likely to have a
A. strong id.
B. strong ego.
C. strong superego.
D. weak id.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

30. Mary is on a business trip and meets an old friend she dated in college. She finds that she is still attracted to him, and something inside her tells her, "Go ahead. Invite him to your room and kiss him." However, Mary is happily married with two young and adorable children. Mary and her old friend end up chatting for a while and then go their separate ways. According to the Freudian framework, which of the following parts of Mary's personality is most likely to have prevailed in this situation?
A. id
B. thanatos
C. superego
D. libido

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

31. According to Freud, the id, ego, and superego
A. develop sequentially.
B. develop simultaneously.
C. are functional from birth.
D. are present only in males.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26
32. Which of the following is true of erogenous zones?
A. They are areas of the body that are completely insensate.
B. They are areas of the body that give pleasure when touched.
C. They are present only in males but not in females.
D. They are present only in females but not in males.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

33. According to Freud's psychoanalytic theory, the first stage of psychosexual development a child goes through is the _____ stage.
A. phallic
B. anal
C. oral
D. genital

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

34. According to Freud, during the _____ stage of psychosexual development, a child's interest is focused on elimination.
A. latent
B. phallic
C. anal
D. oral

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

35. Freud believed that a child passes through a sequence of stages of psychosexual development. The stage where boys and girls have considerably different experiences is the _____ stage.
A. oral
B. anal
C. phallic
D. rectal

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27
36. The phallic stage
A. occurs before the oral stage.
B. is experienced only by girls.
C. is marked by the Oedipus complex.
D. is marked by oral fixation.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

37. According to Freud, which of the following is true of the phallic stage?
A. It is the stage during which a child is focused on elimination.
B. It is the stage during which a boy feels castration anxiety.
C. It is the stage during which a girl displays hostility toward her father.
D. It is the stage during which a boy displays hostility toward his mother.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

38. The Oedipus complex
A. is resolved at the end of the phallic stage.
B. occurs before the oral stage.
C. is resolved at the end of the oral stage.
D. occurs during the oral stage.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

39. According to Freud, the _____ complex is the sexual attraction of a little girl for her father.
A. Oedipus
B. Electra
C. thanatos
D. superego

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27
40. According to Freud, during the phallic stage of development, a girl is likely to experience _____, which is part of the Electra complex.
A. penis envy  
B. castration anxiety  
C. oral fixation  
D. anal envy  

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

41. According to Freud, a boy shifts to identifying with his father, taking on the father's gender role and acquiring the characteristics expected of males by society during the _____ stage of psychosexual development.
A. anal  
B. oral  
C. rectal  
D. phallic  

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

42. According to the psychoanalytic theory, after the resolution of the Oedipus or Electra complex, children pass into a prolonged stage known as _____.
A. cadency  
B. latency  
C. potency  
D. exigency  

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

43. According to Freud, during the _____, sexual impulses are repressed or are in a quiescent stage.
A. phallic stage  
B. genital stage  
C. refractory period  
D. latency period  

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

44. What does contemporary research say about Freud's theory of latency?
A. Modern research shows that this period occurs during approximately the second year of life.
B. Modern research shows that this period immediately follows the oral stage of psychosexual development.
C. Modern research shows that children repress their sexual curiosity during this period.
D. Modern research shows that children continue to engage in behavior with sexual components during this period.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

45. According to Freud, with puberty, sexual urges reawaken and a child moves into the _____ stage of psychosexual development.
A. genital
B. oral
C. anal
D. phallic

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

46. According to Freud's psychoanalytic theory, a person who is addicted to smoking cigarettes is most likely to be fixated at the _____ stage.
A. phallic
B. anal
C. oral
D. latency

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

47. From a scientific point of view, one of the major problems with the psychoanalytic theory is that
A. it does not take the sexuality of children into account.
B. most of its concepts cannot be evaluated scientifically to see if they are accurate.
C. it assumes that men are inferior to women, since they lack wombs.
D. it is applicable only to women and not to men.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

48. Freud was criticized by feminists because
A. he believed that girls were fixated on their mothers during the phallic stage.
B. he assumed women to be biologically inferior to men.
C. he studied the sexual desires and preferences of women and not men.
D. he believed that boys were hostile toward their mothers during the phallic stage.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 28

49. The concept _____ was coined by Karen Horney to describe men's wishful feelings about women's reproductive capacity.
A. castration anxiety
B. penis envy
C. labian anxiety
D. womb envy

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 28

50. One of Freud's major contributions to the study of sexuality was
A. his discovery that boys experienced womb envy during the phallic stage.
B. his recognition that humans pass through stages of psychological development.
C. his discovery that children displayed no sexual curiosity until puberty.
D. his assertion that the environment influenced people more than biological determinants.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 28

51. How are the psychoanalytic and sociobiological theories similar?
A. They are both based on the notion that human sexual behavior is biologically controlled.
B. They both place excessive emphasis on the role that learning plays in shaping behavior.
C. They both focus on the sexuality and survival of the group, instead of the individual.
D. They both ignore the role that sex plays in the development of personality.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 28

52. Since the stimulation of the clitoris and penis are automatically pleasurable, an orgasm that results from such a stimulation is classified as a(n)
A. conditioned response.
B. unconditioned response.
C. unconditioned stimulus.
D. conditioned stimulus.
53. Leah's boyfriend always wears a particular brand of cologne during their dates and sexual encounters. Now, whenever she meets a man wearing the same cologne, she feels sexually aroused. This process of learning is an example of
A. classical conditioning.
B. operant conditioning.
C. the Oedipus complex.
D. the Electra complex.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 28

54. _____ conditioning is the process of changing the frequency of a behavior the operant by following it with positive reinforcement (which will make the behavior more frequent in the future) or punishment (which should make the behavior less frequent in the future).
A. Sociobiological
B. Operant
C. Oedipus
D. Climacteric

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 29

55. A woman with a vaginal infection repeatedly experienced pain during penetration, leading her to eventually stop having sexual intercourse. This is an example of _______.
A. relative conditioning
B. operant conditioning
C. the Oedipus complex
D. the Electra complex

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 29

56. Studies on operant conditioning suggest that
A. punishments are more effective shapers of our behavior than rewards.
B. punishments are not very effective in shaping behavior compared with rewards.
C. delayed positive reinforcements are more effective than immediate positive reinforcements in shaping behavior.

2-13

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D. delayed punishments are more effective at eliminating behavior than immediate punishments.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 29

57. Which of the following is a major difference between the psychoanalytic and the learning theories?
   A. Unlike learning theorists, psychoanalytic theorists believe that the determinants of human sexual behavior occur in early childhood.
   B. Unlike learning theorists, psychoanalytic theorists believe that sexual behavior can be learned and changed at any time in one's lifespan.
   C. Unlike psychoanalytic theorists, learning theorists believe that the determinants of human sexual behavior occur in early childhood.
   D. Unlike psychoanalytic theorists, learning theorists believe that the determinants of sexual behavior have been hardwired by evolution.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

58. _____ theorists believe that sexual behavior can be changed at any time in one's lifespan.
   A. Psychoanalytic
   B. Sociobiological
   C. Learning
   D. Deterministic

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

59. Which of the following statements holds true for behavior modification?
   A. It is based on the principle of thanatos.
   B. It is ineffective in the treatment of sexual disorders.
   C. It necessitates a detailed analysis of a person's personality.
   D. It is based on the principles of operant conditioning.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

60. Behavior modification
A. focuses on what unconscious forces motivate undesirable behavior.
B. cannot be used to treat children and adolescents.
C. does not necessitate a detailed analysis of a person's personality.
D. is ineffective in the treatment of sexual disorders.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

61. Which of the following is a behavior modification method based on the principles of classical and operant conditioning that appears to be relatively effective in changing a person's problematic sexual behavior?
A. neurostimulation
B. olfactory aversion therapy
C. homeopathic therapy
D. psychoanalysis

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

62. In _____, behavior is punished using an unpleasant odor.
A. neurostimulation therapy
B. olfactory aversion therapy
C. homeopathic therapy
D. electroconvulsive therapy

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

63. Which of the following is true of olfactory aversion therapy?
A. The patient perceives the problematic behavior to be under his or her control.
B. The aversive stimulus is ineffective if administered by the patient.
C. The method cannot be used to treat deviant sexual behavior in adults.
D. The method mimics aromatherapy and releases fragrances that soothe the mind.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

64. Which of the following is true of the social learning theory?
A. It recognizes the processes of imitation and identification.
B. It states that sexual behavior is innate and cannot be cultivated.
C. It proves conclusively that media has little or no influence on young children.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

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D. It proves conclusively that the environment plays no role in shaping a person's behavior.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

65. According to the social learning theory, the two processes which are useful in explaining the development of gender identity or one's sense of maleness or femaleness are
A. idealism and realism.
B. imitation and identification.
C. existentialism and determinism.
D. positivism and negativism.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 30

66. _____ is based on the principle of reinforcement and assumes that people will choose actions that maximize rewards and minimize costs.
A. Social exchange theory
B. Social stratification theory
C. Existentialism
D. Positivism

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 31

67. Which of the following is true of the social exchange theory?
A. It uses the concept of reinforcement to explain stability and change in relationships between people.
B. It assumes that we have no freedom of choice and that all events in life are predetermined.
C. It states that humans are essentially altruistic putting their own needs after those of others.
D. It refutes the theory that humans are hedonistic in nature.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 31

68. Steve regularly surprises his wife, Marcie, with flowers and gifts. He always tries to make her feel special by taking her out to fancy restaurants and on holidays. However, Marcie often takes him for granted and does not truly appreciate what he does for her. According to the social exchange theory, which of the following is most likely to be true?
A. Steve's rewards are greater than his costs.
B. Steve's costs are greater than his rewards.
C. Steve's rewards are greater than Marcie's rewards.
D. Steve's costs are less than Marcie's costs.
69. The social exchange theory
A. can predict conditions under which people try to change their relationships.
B. does not take the needs and obligations of people into account.
C. applies only to primitive, tribal societies and not contemporary, urban societies.
D. assumes that we have no freedom of choice and that all events in life are predetermined.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 31

70. According to social exchange theory, a state of _____ exists when participants in a relationship believe that the rewards they receive from it are proportional to the costs they bear.
A. disequilibrium
B. existentialism
C. equity
D. fatalism

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 31

71. In the context of matching hypothesis, which of the following reflects the operation of matching?
A. people at all levels of attractiveness find partners
B. people look for the most attractive mate
C. unattractive people do not have partners
D. attractiveness equals health and fertility

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 31

72. Social exchange theory has been criticized because
A. it applies only to men and not to women.
B. it does not take the equity of relationships into account.
C. it applies the concept of rewards and costs to romantic relationships.
D. it gives weight to concepts like altruism and martyrdom.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 31
73. Which of the following is a shortcoming of the social exchange theory?
A. It applies only to people from primitive, tribal societies.
B. It cannot explain selfless behavior such as altruism and martyrdom.
C. It applies only to women and not to men.
D. It does not take the equity of relationships into account.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 31

74. Which of the following is true of cognitive psychology?
A. It insists that psychologists should study only behaviors that can be directly observed.
B. It believes that people's thoughts are insignificant because their actions are predetermined.
C. It believes that it is very important to study people's thoughts.
D. It insists that people's perception and evaluation of events is unimportant.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 31

75. A(n) _____ is defined as a general knowledge framework that a person has about a particular topic.
A. anime
B. schema
C. animus
D. thanatos

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 33

76. A(n) _____ theory was proposed by psychologist Sandra Bem to explain gender-role development and the impact of gender on people's daily lives and thinking.
A. Oedipus
B. equilibrium
C. schema
D. geopolitical

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 33

77. Which of the following is true of gender schema?
A. Gender schema allows us to process information without the influence of gender stereotypes.
B. Gender schema predisposes us to process information based on gender.
C. Gender schema helps us analyze information that contradicts gender stereotypes.
D. Gender schema makes storing information contrary to gender stereotypes easy.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 33

78. Which of the following is most likely an example of schema-consistent information?
A. a male carpenter
B. a female plumber
C. a female taxi driver
D. a male nurse

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 33-34

79. Which of the following is most likely an example of schema-inconsistent information?
A. a female nurse
B. a female bouncer
C. a male carpenter
D. a male truck driver

Feedback: Cognitive Theory

80. Which of the following is an assertion of the feminist theory?
A. Women have greater status and power than men in a culture.
B. Women's sexuality has been repressed and depressed, but rarely expressed.
C. Unlike race and social class, gender is a dimension of equality.
D. The experiences of all women and men are the same regardless of one's social class and sexual orientation.

Feedback: Critical Theories, 34

81. _____ is an approach that says that one should simultaneously consider a person's multiple group memberships and identities, including gender, race, social class, and sexual orientation.
A. Homogeneity
B. Heteronormativity
C. Socialization
D. Intersectionality
82. Which of the following is true of queer theory?
A. It supports the gender binary that separates people into male and female.
B. It argues that social norms privilege heterosexuality and marginalize other sexual orientations.
C. It argues that sexual identities are fixed for an individual.
D. It believes that heterosexuality is the only pattern of sexuality that is normal and natural in the society.

83. In the study of human sexuality, sociologists
A. assume that human sexuality shapes society and not vice versa.
B. believe the sexuality of members in a society is indifferent to institutions like family and religion.
C. learn by observing primitive societies not by observing urban societies.
D. assume that the appropriateness or inappropriateness of a particular sexual behavior depends on the culture in which it occurs.

84. When sociologists discuss the effects of religion and the economy on sexuality, their level of interest is at the _____ level.
A. macro
B. micro
C. small-scale
D. basic

85. The _____ ideology is our basis for asserting that marriage is exclusively for a man and a woman, since only a heterosexual couple can reproduce.
A. recreational
B. relational
C. procreational
D. bilinear
86. According to the _____ ideology, sex outside marriage and same-gender sex are permissible if they take place within the context of loving relationships.
A. schematic  
B. procreation  
C. recreational  
D. relational  

Feedback: Sociological Perspectives, 39

87. Which of the following is true of how the family as an institution influences sexuality?
A. It is the only source of influence on sexuality for children.  
B. It involves teaching children appropriate norms for behavior.  
C. It prevents the peer group from exerting any influence.  
D. It instructs children to live outside the framework of societal rules.  

Feedback: Sociological Perspectives, 39

88. According to a _____ ideology, a wide range of individual and social problems require medical treatment.
A. symbolic  
B. religious  
C. relational  
D. therapeutic  

Feedback: Sociological Perspectives, 39

89. Many people refrain from public nudity and exhibitionism for the fear of arrest and incarceration. This statement most likely illustrates that the law
A. is the basis for the mechanisms of social control.  
B. gives people the freedom to express their sexuality.  
C. exerts influence on sexuality through socialization of children.  
D. has no significant impact upon the behavior of people.  

Feedback: Sociological Perspectives, 39

90. The _____ perspective focuses on how culture shapes and controls our sexual expression.
A. sociobiological  
B. geopolitical  
C. psychosomatic  
D. sociological  

Feedback: Sociological Perspectives, 39
91. _____ is based on the premise that human nature and the social order are products of communication among people.
A. Sociobiology
B. Geopolitical theory
C. Psychoanalysis
D. Symbolic interaction theory

92. Which of the following is a criticism of symbolic interaction theory?
A. It overemphasizes the role of emotions in sexual interactions.
B. It does not acknowledge the importance of symbolic communication.
C. It portrays humans as other-directed individuals.
D. It does not consider rational, conscious thought.

93. Which of the following is true of sexual scripts?
A. Sexual scripts suggest that most human sexual behavior occurs spontaneously.
B. Sexual scripts are enacted by all couples in exactly the same way.
C. Sexual scripts help us function independent of social norms.
D. Sexual scripts teach us an etiquette of sexual behavior.

94. Sexual scripts
A. tell us the meaning we should attach to a particular sexual event.
B. have no significant impact upon the sexual expressions of people.
C. do not shape the sexual behavior of people.
D. suggest that human sexual behavior is unpredictable and spontaneous.
95. A _____ is a site populated with people with erotic dispositions that they project on the space and each other, creating a system of sexual stratification.
A. sexual interaction
B. sexual field
C. sexual script
D. sexual intersection

Feedback: Sociological Perspectives, 37

96. Which of the following statements is true of sexual fields?
A. Sexual fields lack any sort of hierarchy in terms of sexual desires.
B. An individual's ranking remains the same across all sexual fields.
C. People who enter a sexual field are motivated solely by power.
D. Most interactions that lead to sexual intimacy begin or occur in a sexual field.

Feedback: Sociological Perspectives, 37

97. What is sociobiology? How do humans choose mates according to sociobiologists?
Sociobiology is defined as the application of evolutionary biology to understanding the social behavior of animals, including humans. Sexual behavior is a form of social behavior, and so the sociobiologists try, often through observations of other species, to understand why certain patterns of sexual behavior have evolved in humans. Sociobiologists argue that many of the characteristics we evaluate in judging attractiveness—for example, physique and complexion—are indicative of the health and vigor of the individual. These in turn are probably related to the person's reproductive potential; the unhealthy are less likely to produce many vigorous offspring. Natural selection would favor individuals preferring mates who would have maximum reproductive success. Thus, perhaps our concern with physical attractiveness is a product of evolution and natural selection.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 23

98. Explain the concept of parental investment. What does research say about parental investment by men in their stepchildren?
According to sociobiology, parents are most interested in the survival and reproductive success of their genetic offspring. Parental investment refers to the behavior and resources invested in offspring to achieve this end. Research indicates that fathers invest the most money on the genetic children of their current union and the least money on stepchildren from a past relationship. However, they spend an equal amount on their genetic children and the stepchildren of their current relationship, perhaps to cement the pair-bond with their current partner.

Feedback: Evolutionary Perspectives, 25

99. According to Freud, what are the three components of the human personality?
Freud described the human personality as being divided into three major parts: the id, the ego, and the superego. The id is the basic part of personality and is present at birth. It is the reservoir of psychic energy and operates on the pleasure principle, thus making it pretty irrational. The ego operates on the reality principle and tries to keep the id in line. It functions to make a person...
have realistic, rational interactions with others. The superego is the conscience and it operates on idealism. Thus it aims to inhibit the impulses of the id and to persuade the ego to strive for moral goals rather than realistic ones.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 26

APA Learning Outcome: 1.1: Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
Bloom’s: Understand
Difficulty: Medium
Learning Objective: Compare and contrast the psychological perspectives—psychoanalytic theory, learning theory, social exchange theory, and cognitive theory—relevant to sexuality.
Topic: Psychoanalytic Theories
Topic: Psychological Theories

100. According to Freud, how does the Electra complex in girls differ from the Oedipus complex in boys?
The Oedipus and Electra complex are associated with the third stage of psychosexual development—the phallic stage. According to Freud, the resolution of the Oedipus complex is a key factor in personality development as, once the castration anxiety becomes too much, the boy stops desiring his mother and starts identifying with his father. He starts taking on the gender roles and characteristics expected of males by society. In comparison, in the Electra complex, the girl suffers from penis envy over the fact that she does not have a penis. She begins to desire her father sexually and wishes to be impregnated by him to substitute for the unobtainable penis. Because she already lacks a penis, she does not experience castration anxiety as in the case of boys. Thus, the Electra complex in the girl is never completely resolved. Owing to this incomplete resolution, the girl remains somewhat immature compared with men.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27

APA Learning Outcome: 1.1: Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
Bloom’s: Understand
Difficulty: Medium
Learning Objective: Compare and contrast the psychological perspectives—psychoanalytic theory, learning theory, social exchange theory, and cognitive theory—relevant to sexuality.
Topic: Psychoanalytic Theories
Topic: Psychological Theories

101. What were some of the criticisms leveled at Freud?
From a scientific point of view, one of the major problems with the psychoanalytic theory is that most of its concepts cannot be evaluated scientifically to see whether they are accurate. Another criticism is that Freud derived his data almost exclusively from his work with patients who sought therapy from him. Thus, his theory may provide a view not so much of the human personality as of disturbances in the human personality. Feminists have also been critical of Freudian theory as a male-centered theory that may cause harm to women. They object to Freud’s assumption that because women do not have a penis they are biologically inferior to men, and to his distinction between vaginal and clitoral orgasms. Finally, many modern psychologists feel that Freud overemphasized the biological determinants of behavior and instincts and that he gave insufficient recognition to the importance of the environment and learning.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 27-28

APA Learning Outcome: 1.2: Develop a working knowledge of psychology’s content domains
Bloom’s: Understand
Difficulty: Medium
Learning Objective: Compare and contrast the psychological perspectives—psychoanalytic theory, learning theory, social exchange theory, and cognitive theory—relevant to sexuality.
Topic: Psychoanalytic Theories
Topic: Psychological Theories

102. Sexual behavior plays dual roles in the learning theory. Explain.
According to operant conditioning, behaviors that are rewarded and reinforced are more likely to occur again, while those that are punished are less likely to be repeated. In the learning theory, sexual behavior plays dual roles. It can be used as a reward or a positive reinforcer, as in the case of a person who frequents nightclubs because of the probability of “hooking up” with someone, and it can also be the behavior that is rewarded or punished as in the case of a man who contracts a sexually transmitted disease (STD) after having unprotected sex.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 29
103. What is the matching hypothesis?
The matching hypothesis predicts that men and women will choose as mates people who match them on physical and social characteristics. People who match will provide each other with similar rewards on dimensions such as attractiveness, social status, and wealth. As such, people at all levels of attractiveness find partners, reflecting the operation of matching.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 31

APA Learning Outcome: 1.1: Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
Bloom’s: Understand
Difficulty: Medium
Learning Objective: Compare and contrast the psychological perspectives—psychoanalytic theory, learning theory, social exchange theory, and cognitive theory—relevant to sexuality.
Topic: Learning Theory
Topic: Psychological Theories

104. Explain the relationship between gender schema theory and stereotypes.
A gender schema predisposes individuals to process information on the basis of gender. It is comprised of the attributes that we generally associate with males and females, and in this way, reinforces gender stereotypes. Gender schemas help us remember information that is consistent with the schema (and the stereotype), while they distort or filter out information that is schema and stereotype-inconsistent. Owing to this, stereotypes—whether they are about males and females, or heterosexuals and homosexuals, or other groups—may be very slow to change.

Feedback: Psychological Theories, 33-34

APA Learning Outcome: 1.2: Develop a working knowledge of psychology’s content domains
Bloom’s: Understand
Difficulty: Medium
Learning Objective: Compare and contrast the psychological perspectives—psychoanalytic theory, learning theory, social exchange theory, and cognitive theory—relevant to sexuality.
Topic: Learning Theory
Topic: Psychological Theories

105. Briefly explain queer theory.
Queer theory is broader than just the topic of sexual orientation and includes other topics that have been considered "deviant," such as intersex and transgender. Queer theory questions the social categorization of sexuality and gender. It challenges binaries (the idea that people fall into one of just two categories), especially the sexual orientation binary, that is, the assumption that people are either homosexual or heterosexual and there are no other possibilities or spaces in between. Similarly, it questions the gender binary that separates people into male and female, as if they were opposites, with no recognition of similarities or other gender possibilities. It also argues that sexual identities are not fixed for the individual. That is, sexual identities may vary depending on the situation or time in one’s life. Another definition of queer is peculiar or odd, that is, different from the norm. In this sense, queer theory questions what is categorized as peculiar and what is not. It questions norms. It uses this approach to challenge heteronormativity, the belief that heterosexuality is the only pattern of sexuality that is normal and natural. Queer theory argues that social norms privilege heterosexuality and marginalize other sexual orientations.

Feedback: Critical Theories, 35

APA Learning Outcome: 1.1: Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
Bloom’s: Understand
Difficulty: Medium
Learning Objective: Explain the sociological perspectives of human sexuality.
Topic: Queer Theory

106. What is meant by the medicalization of sexuality? Give some examples.
The increasing influence of medicine on sexuality has not been taken lying down. The domination of contemporary theory and research by the biomedical model is referred to as the medicalization of sexuality. Medicalization has two components: Certain behaviors or conditions are defined in terms of health and illness, and problematic experiences or practices are given medical treatment. The medicalization of male sexuality is being hastened by the development of drugs to treat erectile dysfunction, and many physicians and pharmaceutical companies are seeking to medicalize female orgasmic dysfunction by finding a pill that will "cure" it.

Feedback: Sociological Perspectives, 39

APA Learning Outcome: 1.1: Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
Bloom’s: Understand
Difficulty: Medium
Learning Objective: Explain the sociological perspectives of human sexuality.
Topic: Queer Theory
Topic: Social Institutions
Topic: Sociological Perspectives
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th># of Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Learning Outcome: 1.1: Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Learning Outcome: 1.2: Develop a working knowledge of psychology's content domains</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Learning Outcome: 1.3: Describe applications of psychology</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom's: Apply</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom's: Remember</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom's: Understand</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty: Easy</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty: Hard</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty: Medium</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Objective: Compare and contrast the psychological perspectives—psychoanalytic theory, learning theory, social exchange theory, and cognitive theory—relevant to sexuality.</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Objective: Differentiate the sociobiology perspective from the evolutionary perspective of human sexuality.</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Objective: Explain the sociological perspectives of human sexuality.</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Cognitive Theory</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Evolutionary Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Learning Theory</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Psychoanalytic Theories</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Psychological Theories</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Queer Theory</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Sexual Fields</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Sexual Scripts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Social Institutions</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Sociobiology</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Sociological Perspectives</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>