Chapter 1: Conceptualizing Relational Communication: Definitions and Principles

Test Bank

# Multiple Choice

1. According to research cited in the text, when people interact with others, the most common topics involve \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. the weather, current events, and work

B. movies, pets, and activities

C. relationship problems, sex, family, and romantic partners

D. politics and religion

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Field of Personal Relationships: A Brief History

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Research on interpersonal communication began contributing to the study of personal relationships in the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. 1920s and 1930s

B. 1940s and 1950s

C. 1960s and 1970s

D. 1980s and 1990s

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Field of Personal Relationships: A Brief History

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. According to the textbook, the study of interpersonal communication emerged as one of the primary emphases in the communication discipline because of the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. baby boom that followed the end of World War II

B. realization that relational development and communication share a symbiotic relationship

C. hippie movement in the 1960s

D. publishing of John Gray’s *Men Are From Mars and Women Are From Venus*

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Contributions of Interpersonal Communication Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. The first journal dedicated solely to the study of interpersonal relationships is titled \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. *The Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*

B. *Interpersonal Communication Monographs*

C. *Personal Relationships*

D. *Social Monographs*

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Contributions of Social Psychology

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. The two fields that have contributed most to the study of personal relationships are \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. social psychology and sociology

B. social psychology and communication

C. communication and family studies

D. family studies and sociology

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Roots in Other Disciplines

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Close relationships satisfy interpersonal needs. The three most central needs are \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. security, food, and self-actualization

B. attractiveness, sense of humor, and a good personality

C. affection, social inclusion, and behavioral control

D. attachment, behavioral interdependence, and challenge

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define and distinguish among role relationships, interpersonal relationships, and close relationships, as well as interpersonal and relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Close Relationships

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Close relationships are defined by \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. sexual activity only

B. romantic attachment and sexual activity only

C. behavioral interdependence, repeated interaction, emotional attachment, and needed fulfillment

D. the presence of any kind of physical contact

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define and distinguish among role relationships, interpersonal relationships, and close relationships, as well as interpersonal and relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Close Relationships

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. The most basic requirement for defining all types of relationships is that people share \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. repeated interaction

B. some level of behavioral interdependence

C. some level of emotional attachment

D. a unique pattern of communication

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how researchers think about relationships in terms of categories and the characteristics that define them.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Role Relationships

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. There are three overriding sets of goals that people strive for in relationships. If you are interested in obtaining a letter of recommendation from one of your professors, you have to communicate your wishes to your professor and explain why and how the letter will help you. In doing this, you would be attempting to fulfill which of the following sets of goals?

A. relational

B. self-presentational

C. instrumental

D. social

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Interpersonal Communication Goals

Difficulty Level: Hard

10. If you are interested in obtaining a letter of recommendation from one of your professors, you have to communicate your wishes to your professor and explain why and how the letter will help you. If you spend a large amount of time preparing an e-mail request to ask for the letter of recommendation, you would be attempting to fulfill \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. relational goals

B. self-presentational goals

C. instrumental goals

D. social goals

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Self-Presentation Goals

Difficulty Level: Hard

11. Studies suggest that approximately \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the meaning of a given interaction is interpreted from nonverbal behavior.

A. 10–15%

B. 20–25%

C. 60–65%

D. 90–95%

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Verbal and Nonverbal Messages

Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Which of the following conditions defines behavior's relationship to communication?

A. All behavior is communication.

B. Behavior is communication if it is sent without intent.

C. Behavior is communication if it is interpreted by a receiver.

D. Behavior is communication if it goes unnoticed by the receiver.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Communication as Inevitable

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. Isabel stands at the foot of the stairs and yells “dinner’s ready” to her kids who are upstairs. However, her kids do not hear her because they are both listening to their iPods. This is an example of \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. unattended behavior

B. attempted communication

C. miscommunication

D. accidental communication

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Effectiveness and Shared Meaning

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. Marcia is nervous when an attractive man approaches her and says “hello.” She tries to hide her anxiety, but the man notices that she is a bit fidgety and figures out that she is nervous. This is an example of \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. unattended behavior

B. attempted communication

C. miscommunication

D. accidental communication

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Effectiveness and Shared Meaning

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Late one Friday afternoon, the person you are dating calls and asks, “So, what are we doing tonight?” You interpret this question as good thing and realize you have a partner who is always there for you. This refers to the \_\_\_\_\_\_ level of the message.

A. content

B. relational

C. report

D. philosophical

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Contributions of Social Psychology

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Which of the following is the *best* example of *symmetrical* message exchange?

A. Brent says “I love you,” and Carrie says “That’s nice.”

B. Jessica says “Do you want to go to the movies?” and Veronica says, “No, thanks.”

C. Keisha touches Jamal 5 times, whereas Jamal only touches Keisha once.

D. Tom says, “Take out the trash,” and Jake says, “Take it out yourself.”

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Symmetry in Communication

Difficulty Level: Hard

17. A smile from your significant other sends a different message to you than a smile from a stranger. A secret your best friend tells you means something different than a disclosure from a stranger on a plane. The principle that explains these interactions is that relationships \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. emerge through ongoing interactions

B. contextualize messages

C. are asymmetrical or symmetrical

D. have a task and social orientation

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.5: Describe the five principles of relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Principles of Relational Communication

Difficulty Level: Hard

18. The distinction between romantic versus nonromantic relationships is based on \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. whether people define themselves as a couple

B. whether two people have sex

C. the degree to which two people are close on an emotional level

D. how committed two people are to the relationship

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define and distinguish among role relationships, interpersonal relationships, and close relationships, as well as interpersonal and relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Romantic Versus Nonromantic

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. What does the term *gender* refer to?

A. biological differences between females and males

B. culturally constructed images of men and women as masculine or feminine

C. the degree to which individuals are androgynous

D. the combination of sexual and personal identity

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how researchers think about relationships in terms of categories and the characteristics that define them.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Male Versus Female or Masculine Versus Feminine

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. Relationships that are characterized by genetic relatedness are usually characterized as \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. involuntary

B. voluntary

C. traditional

D. nontraditional

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define and distinguish among role relationships, interpersonal relationships, and close relationships, as well as interpersonal and relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Voluntary Versus Involuntary

Difficulty Level: Easy

21. The term *proxemics* refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. the use of touch

B. body movement, including posture, eye behavior, and facial expression

C. the use of space, including conversational distances and territory

D. physical attributes such as height, weight, and attractiveness

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Verbal and Nonverbal Messages

Difficulty Level: Easy

22. The term *kinesics* refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. the use of touch

B. physical attributes such as height, weight, and attractiveness

C. the use of space, including conversational distances and territory

D. body movement, including posture, eye behavior, and facial expression

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Verbal and Nonverbal Messages

Difficulty Level: Easy

23. The two primary relational messages or fundamental themes that characterize a relationship are the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. level of intimacy and dominance/submission

B. task–social orientation and degree of social composure

C. formality–informality and degree of social composure

D. level of emotional arousal and dominance/submission

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: Describe the five principles of relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Communication Sends a Variety of Relational Messages

Difficulty Level: Easy

24. Most relationships include relational communication that \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. primarily follows a linear pattern

B. primarily follows a nonlinear pattern

C. primarily follows a curvilinear pattern

D. follows both linear and nonlinear patterns

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.5: Describe the five principles of relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Relational Communication Follows Both Linear and Nonlinear Patterns

Difficulty Level: Easy

25. In the 1970s, Berscheid and Walster got “fleeced” by the U.S. Senate and criticized because they were studying \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. sex

B. prostitution

C. love

D. children

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Field of Personal Relationships: A Brief History

Difficulty Level: Easy

# True/False

1. The idea that relational communication is *dynamic* means that communication reflects the changing nature of relationships.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.5: Describe the five principles of relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Relational Communication Is Dynamic

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Interpersonal communication consists mainly of verbal messages.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Verbal and Nonverbal Messages

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. The formal study of personal relationships is a fairly recent phenomenon.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Field of Personal Relationships: A Brief History

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Dominance is traditionally communicated verbally.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.6: Identify and describe the seven fundamental themes of relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Seven Fundamental Themes of Relational Communication

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. For relational growth to produce lasting, positive results, it needs to be linear.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.5: Describe the five principles of relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Relational Communication Follows Both Linear and Nonlinear Patterns

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. The study of personal relationships is taught solely in communication departments.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Roots in Other Disciplines

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Interpersonal communication contains both content and relational information.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Content Versus Relational Information

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Relationships emerge across ongoing interactions.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define and distinguish among role relationships, interpersonal relationships, and close relationships, as well as interpersonal and relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Relationships

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Two thirds of Facebook subscribers check their Facebook site every day.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Verbal and Nonverbal Messages

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. The majority of people today meet their future spouse on the Internet or an Internet dating site.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Verbal and Nonverbal Messages

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. According to Guerrero et al. and Watzlawick et al., *one cannot not communicate in face-to-face settings.*

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Communication as Inevitable

Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Self-presentational goals relate to the image we want others to convey.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Interpersonal Communication Goals

Difficulty Level: Medium

# Essay

1. Why are personal relationships important? What role does communication play in such a definition?

Ans: Personal relationships are central to being human; through personal relationships, we find most profound experiences of security/anxiety, power/impotence, unity/separateness, born into relationships, live lives in relationships; when people talk, the most common topics are relationship problems, sex, family, and romantic partners; capacity to form relationships is innate and biological; communication plays a central role--need help, comfort, or reassurance, we use communication; relationships cannot exist without communication. Bad versus good communication.

Learning Objective: 1.2: Define and distinguish among role relationships, interpersonal relationships, and close relationships, as well as interpersonal and relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Field of Personal Relationships: A Brief History

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Explain the stages in the history of the study of interpersonal relationships research. What other disciplines had an influence on the development of this area of study?

Ans: 1960s looked at small groups/dyads consisting of close friends, family members, and romantic partners; in 1970s, first interpersonal communication books emerged; contributions came from social psychology, sociology, and anthropology. Evolution of interpersonal communication as primary emphasis in the communication discipline was the outcome of recognition that relationships are the primary locus for communication.

Learning Objective: 1.1: Identify the various areas of research that contribute to the broader body of literature on close relationships.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Field of Personal Relationships: A Brief History

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. In the 21st century, communication occurs in a variety of channels that utilize technology. Think of all the ways you use technology to communicate with people. Select three of them and discuss how they hurt and/or help you manage your interpersonal relationships.

Ans: Smart/cell phone, apps, text, e-mail, Snapchat, Twitter, and Internet. How they help/hurt: people are more accessible; computer-mediated communication and be substituted for face-to-face and voice-to-voice communication; nonverbal cues are limited; computer-mediated channels offer more opportunity to control messages; simultaneously send the same message to many people.

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Verbal and Nonverbal Messages

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. What is the difference between the content and relational communication of messages? What kinds of messages are likely to contain each kind of communication?

Ans: Content level conveys information at a literal level; relational level provides context for interpreting the message. Every message contains both content and relational information. Messages send more than literal information; they also tell people something about their relationship.

Learning Objective: 1.4: Describe the six principles of interpersonal communication and know that ideas associated with each principle.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Content Versus Relational Information

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Define interpersonal communication. Compare and contrast it to relational communication.

Ans: Interpersonal communication: exchange of messages, verbal and nonverbal, between two people regardless of the relationship they have. Includes the exchange of messages in all sorts of relationships ranging from functional to close. Relational communication is narrower and typically focuses on messages exchanged in close or potentially close relationships--good friends, partners, and family.

Learning Objective: 1.5: Describe the five principles of relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Principles of Interpersonal Communication

Difficulty Level: Hard

6. List and discuss four fundamental themes of relational communication.

Ans: Relationships emerge across ongoing interactions; relationships contextualize messages; communication sends a variety of relational messages; relational communication is dynamic; relational communication follows both linear and nonlinear patterns.

Learning Objective: 1.5: Describe the five principles of relational communication.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Principles of Interpersonal Communication

Difficulty Level: Medium