Controversy 1: Does Old Age Have Meaning?

Test Bank

# Multiple Choice

1. As people get older, overall participation in leisure activities tends to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. increase

B. decrease

C. remain the same as earlier in life

D. vary according to ability.

Ans: B

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Changing Leisure Participation Patterns

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. As people age, they tend to engage in \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. new activities with newly acquainted people

B. new activities with the same people they knew from middle age

C. the same activities with the same people they knew from middle age

D. no activities

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Changing Leisure Participation Patterns

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Recent survey findings show that persons of age 75 and older spend about \_\_\_\_\_\_ hr a day on leisure activities.

A. 10

B. 8

C. 2

D. 5

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Changing Leisure Participation Patterns

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. The “gray market” refers to the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. consumption of goods and services during one’s retirement years

B. growing market for business comprised of those over age 50

C. growing number of businesses that offer “senior discounts”

D. growing market for meaningful activities among people over age 50

Ans: B

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Changing Leisure Participation Patterns

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. As people grow older \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. many decrease their involvement in organized religion and increase their involvement in nonorganized religion

B. many increase their involvement in organized religion and decrease their involvement in nonorganized religion

C. many increase their involvement in both organized and nonorganized religion

D. involvement in both organized and nonorganized religion tends to stay the same as in younger years

Ans: A

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Religious Involvement Over the Life Course

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Life satisfaction is \_\_\_\_\_\_ among those with high levels of religious commitment compared to those with no sense of religious commitment.

A. higher

B. lower

C. about the same

D. unreported

Ans: A

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Religious Participation and Well-Being

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The most damaging threat to well-being in later life is \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. fear of destitution

B. poor health

C. death of loved ones

D. boredom and loss of life purpose

Ans: D

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Gerontology and the Meaning of Age

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Which theory of aging does de Beauvoir’s solution to a defensive and aggressive attitude in old age best reflect?

A. disengagement theory

B. activity theory

C. modernization theory

D. continuity theory

Ans: B

Cognitive domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Activity or Reflection?

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. How should people prepare for old age, according to de Beauvoir?

A. set aside money

B. choose the place where they will retire

C. acquire hobbies

D. live a committed, justified life

Ans: D

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Reading 1: The Coming of Age

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Florida Scott-Maxwell found to her surprise that her feelings became more \_\_\_\_\_\_ once she turned 80.

A. morose and morbid

B. peaceful

C. intense and passionate

D. reflective

Ans: C

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Reading 4: The Measure of My Days

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. “Vital involvement” in old age best reflects which theory of aging?

A. continuity theory

B. disengagement theory

C. modernization theory

D. activity theory

Ans: D

Cognitive domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Reading 3: Vital Involvement in Old Age

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Old people have long memories and wider perspectives on the maintenance of our natural world, making them good candidates for what role in society?

A. as conservationists

B. less differentiated in their masculine and feminine predilections

C. as arbiters of disputes

D. as advocates for a new international understanding

Ans: A

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Potential Role of Elders in Our Society

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. In American society, aging is often regarded as something to be \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. eagerly anticipated

B. denied or concealed

C. approached with indifference

D. dreaded

Ans: B

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Successful Aging or the Imitation of Youth?

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Which of the following best describes the popular media depiction of “successful aging?”

A. avoiding disease and disability

B. maintaining mental and physical function

C. continuing engagement with life

D. no aging at all

Ans: D

Cognitive domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Successful Aging or the Imitation of Youth?

Difficulty Level: Medium

# True/False

1. As people get older and have more leisure time, they tend to take up new activities.

Ans: F

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Leisure Activities in Later Life

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Older women tend to have higher levels of religious participation and belief than do men.

Ans: T

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Religious Involvement Over the Life Course

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. People tend to become more involved in religious organizations as they age.

Ans: F

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Religious Involvement Over the Life Course

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. It was only in the 20th century that a sizable proportion of the population survived to experience old age.

Ans: T

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Meaning of Age

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Participation in intellectual and political leisure activities may have protective benefits for cognition during later life.

Ans: T

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Changing Leisure Participation Patterns

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. The life course perspective views “stages of life” as unchanging and universal in meaning.

Ans: F

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Meaning of Aging in the 21st Century

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. If leisure activity is to be a path to deeper meaning, then it must have some dimension of growth or personal development.

Ans: T

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Leisure Activities in Later Life

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. de Beauvoir argues that old age brings serenity in that all of life’s conflicts have been resolved and people can happily live out the remainder of their lives.

Ans: F

Cognitive domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Reading 1: The Coming of Age

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Erikson, Erikson, and Kivnick argue that elders should accept the inevitable losses of aging and retreat from society.

Ans: F

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reading 3: Vital Involvement in Old Age

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Erikson, Erikson, and Kivnick argue that recollection is one way to adapt to the constant losses that occur in old age, but a more rewarding form of adaptation is to develop new relationships.

Ans: T

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reading 3: Vital Involvement in Old Age

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. According to their definition of “successful aging,” Rowe and Kahn argue that legendary pitcher Satchel Paige was aging successfully.

Ans: F

Cognitive domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Reading 2: Successful Aging

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Scott-Maxwell suggests that life has changed her, and at the same time, it has left her nearly the same.

Ans: T

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reading 4: The Measure of My Days

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. Scott-Maxwell argues that in old age, people have no duties except to themselves.

Ans: F

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reading 4: The Measure of My Days

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. According to Scott-Maxwell, old people’s outward appearance may seem drab, but inside they have much passion about life.

Ans: T

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reading 4: The Measure of My Days

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. According to Scott-Maxwell, old people think often about how old they will become and how much decay they will have to endure until death.

Ans: T

Cognitive domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Reading 4: The Measure of My Days

Difficulty Level: Medium

# Essay

1. Does leisure inevitably become a source of meaning in old age? Explain.

Ans: Varies

Cognitive domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Leisure Activities in Later Life

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. The goal of the social integration of the aged is widely shared by many gerontologists. What are some of the primary approaches to making sure older adults stay engaged in society?

Ans: Varies.

Cognitive domain: Application

Answer Location: Gerontology and the Meaning of Age

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Compare and contrast activity theory, disengagement theory, and continuity theory with respect to how they can be applied to the study of leisure activity patterns in old age. Of the three theories, which do you feel best reflects what you have observed about aging and later life?

Ans: Varies.

Cognitive domain: Application

Answer Location: Leisure Activities in Later Life

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. How do people find meaning in old age? Does the period of old age have intrinsic meaning? Explain.

Ans: Varies.

Cognitive domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Gerontology and the Meaning of Age

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. The question about whether old age has meaning is both a personal question and a challenge for social gerontology. The personal question is ultimately a matter of values: What is it that makes my life worth living into the last stage? From the vantage point of your current life course stage and age, how do you respond to this question?

Ans: Varies.

Cognitive domain: Application

Answer Location: Gerontology and the Meaning of Age

Difficulty Level: Hard

6. How, according to de Beauvoir, can old age bring both liberation and bitter disillusionment?

Ans: Varies.

Cognitive domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Reading 1: The Coming of Age

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. According to Erikson, Erikson, and Kivnick, what challenge faces our aging population? How should this challenge be met?

Ans: Varies.

Cognitive domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Reading 3: Vital Involvement in Old Age

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. What does it mean to “age successfully?” What can society do to enhance the possibility of successful aging? Do you see any problems with this perspective on aging? What might an alternative perspective promote regarding aging?

Ans: Varies.

Cognitive domain: Application

Answer Location: Reading 2: Successful Aging

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. How does life prepare people for old age, according to Scott-Maxwell? How might you apply Scott-Maxwell’s insights in your own life as you grow older?

Ans: Varies.

Cognitive domain: Application

Answer Location: Reading 4: The Measure of My Days

Difficulty Level: Medium