Chapter 2 The Social Sources of Modern Illness

True / False

1. True or False: All else equal, an African American woman has a higher cumulative stress burden than a White woman.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

2. True or False: Morbidity refers to death.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

3. True or False: The most common causes of death in the United States are chronic diseases.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

4. True or False: From an epidemiological perspective, alcohol is more dangerous than heroin and other illicit drugs.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

5. True or False: People who are obese are less healthy and have greater rates or morbidity and mortality, even when fit, than people who are underweight.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

Multiple Choice

6. The study of the distribution of disease among a population is referred to as
    a. sociology.
    b. clinical sociology.
    c. epidemiology.
    d. geography.
    e. enterology.
ANSWER: c

7. The percentage of persons living in the United States who have epilepsy is best referred to as
    a. the incidence of epilepsy.
    b. the prevalence of epilepsy.
    c. the rate of epilepsy.
    d. the epidemiological transition.
    e. the demographic transition.
ANSWER: b

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8. Fill in the blanks: "In order to limit society's exposure to HIV, some scholars (such as public health workers) study where HIV cases are most likely to be diagnosed, which is also known as the _____ of HIV. These scholars would likely refer to HIV as _____ because they are most concerned with the potential deadliness of HIV. Alternatively, a sociologist that is studying why African Americans contract HIV at higher rates than White Americans is said to be engaging in _____ and would likely refer to HIV as _____."

    a. epidemiology; an illness; social epidemiology; a disease

    b. epidemiology; a disease; social epidemiology; an illness

    c. illness; a disease; social epidemiology; epidemiology

    d. disease; an illness; social epidemiology; epidemiology

    e. social epidemiology; an illness; epidemiology; a disease

ANSWER: b

9. Which of the following would NOT be considered a manufacturer of illness?

    a. a multi-billion pharmaceutical company that produces an annual flu vaccine

    b. a politician that is paid by a lobbyist to fight against sugar taxes on soft drinks

    c. a CEO for a multi-million fast food company

    d. an oil company that publishes scientifically dubious claims that fossil fuels are not contributing to climate change

    e. a company that produces pesticides that are known to cause cancer

ANSWER: a

10. Which of the following statements is true?

    a. Widespread use of antibiotics has led to an increase in infectious diseases.

    b. As more people in poorer countries are moving to cities, infectious disease is increasing.

    c. Globalization is helping to spread infectious disease.

    d. Social policies, including a prohibition of needle-exchange programs, has led to an increase in infectious diseases.

    e. All of these are correct.

ANSWER: d

11. What is the most common cause of premature death in the United States?

    a. illegal drugs

    b. diet / activity patterns

    c. AIDS

    d. tobacco

    e. microbial agents

ANSWER: b

12. Research suggests that

    a. having a gun in the home significantly increases the odds of homicide.

    b. having a gun in the home reduces the chances of being killed if one's home is forcibly entered.

    c. strangers kill about half of all homicide victims.

    d. gun ownership increases the risk of homicide for African-American men but not for white men.

    e. None of these are correct.

Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

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ANSWER: a

13. Which of the following is true?
    a. Public funding for contraceptive services has increased.
    b. Women who have Medicaid can receive an abortion at no cost.
    c. Almost all US counties have at least one abortion provider.
    d. Access to abortion has declined during the last decade.
    e. All of these are correct.
ANSWER: d

14. Which of the following would be most likely to reduce medical errors?
    a. developing systems to identify ill-trained nurses
    b. developing systems to identify drug-abusing doctors
    c. increasing autopsy rates
    d. making it easier for patients to sue incompetent doctors
    e. holding more Medical Mortality Review conferences
ANSWER: c

15. Which of the following is true about toxic agents?
    a. Environmental pollution is especially dangerous to children.
    b. Toxic agents are NOT contributing to climate change.
    c. The use of toxic agents can be reduced by developing a "risk society."
    d. Individuals who have suffered harm as a result of toxic agents in risk societies can easily have their illnesses recognized.
    e. All of these are true.
ANSWER: b

16. According to the Health Belief Model, which of the following is necessary before individuals will comply with medical advice?
    a. They must believe they are susceptible to a particular health problem.
    b. They must have a doctor that they trust.
    c. They must believe they may die if they do not comply.
    d. They must have the support of their social networks.
    e. All of these are correct.
ANSWER: a

17. Based on the Health Belief Model, which of the following individuals is most likely to make a healthy change?
    a. A 38-year-old woman is a periodic smoker and believes she is susceptible to lung cancer. She does not think the disease is serious but does not believe she smokes enough for there to be significant risk. She does not believe that decreasing her smoking will decrease her risk. She has friends and family who are also smokers and agree that she does not smoke excessively.
    b. A 15-year-old teenage boy uses marijuana daily. He does not believe that it is dangerous. However, he has parents who are supportive of him quitting use, and after a run in with the law is also now on probation that requires him to stop using marijuana.
    c. A 22-year-old woman is pregnant and at risk for gestational diabetes. She does believe it is dangerous to her

and her unborn child but does not believe it is as dangerous as her doctor suggests. She believes that eating well and exercise will lower her risk. Because her family does not agree with her pregnancy, she has limited support and very limited financial resources to buy healthy food.

d. A 68-year-old woman believes she is at risk for Alzheimer's disease. She is scared of not remembering her children and grandchildren and is scared of death. Her doctor tells her that engaging in memory activities will help reduce her risk. Her children live nearby and are happy to come over daily to help.

e. A 42-year-old man is a lifelong alcoholic and believes he is at risk for cirrhosis. He strongly believes that the disease is serious and could kill him. He also believes that decreasing alcohol use will reduce his risk. He is ashamed to tell his family about his drinking problem and has attempted to quit before unsuccessfully.

ANSWER: d

18. Health lifestyles
    a. are based on both life chances and life choices.
    b. can affect life chances, but life chances do not affect life choices.
    c. are very similar among Americans of different social classes.
    d. are not affected by socialization or life experiences.
    e. are purely a matter of individual choice.

ANSWER: a

19. A man who works out daily at the gym and who regards his regular exercise as part of his identify can be said to have a
    a. psychosis.
    b. life chance.
    c. health project.
    d. health fixation.
    e. life choice.

ANSWER: c

20. Social stress
    a. can cause mental as well as physical illness.
    b. is most common among busy middle-class people.
    c. can cause illness but does not affect the immune system.
    d. improves the immune system.
    e. improves one's life choices.

ANSWER: a

21. Social networks
    a. can improve individuals' health.
    b. can threaten individuals' health.
    c. can lead to obesity.
    d. All of these are correct.
    e. None of these are correct.

ANSWER: d

22. In a "risk society," individuals often find it difficult to get acknowledgement that they suffer from an illness because

a. the doctors they have access to work for the corporations that in some way caused the illness.

b. they are labeled as lazy rather than ill.

c. they are considered responsible for the risks they took.

d. All individuals are at similar risk, and therefore no one is concerned with the symptoms.

e. All of these are correct.

ANSWER: a

23. In general, rates better measure how common an illness is than do raw numbers because rates

a. allow us to reasonably compare populations of different sizes.

b. are more scientifically accurate.

c. are a more objective measure.

d. can be measured in a less biased fashion.

e. can be more accurately calculated.

ANSWER: a

24. Which of the following diseases would be better measured by an incidence rate than a prevalence rate?

a. arthritis

b. cancer

c. influenza

d. diabetes

e. All of these would best be measured by incidence rate.

ANSWER: a

25. Based on what you have learned about the sociological perspective and critical sociologists, which of the following theories explaining healthful decision making do you think critical sociologists would be more likely to support, and why?

a. Health lifestyle theory: It attempts to explain individual behavior over group behavior.

b. Health belief model: It emphasizes an individual's agency and ability to make decisions for themselves.

c. Health belief model: It emphasizes the importance of perceived risk an individual has of disease.

d. Health lifestyle theory: It emphasizes the importance of institutions and social structures in a person's life when they make choices.

e. Health belief model: It is the most popular theory for explaining healthful decisions.

ANSWER: d

Essay

26. Evaluate the role that social conditions and status play in maintaining and restoring health and compare that to the role played by medical treatments.
ANSWER: Answers May Vary

27. How have social factors and conditions contributed to the spread of HIV?
ANSWER: Answers May Vary

28. Look at the last 12 issues of a magazine that regularly runs advertisements for either alcoholic beverages or cigarettes. What overt and covert messages do advertisements in these issues give regarding alcohol/tobacco, the use of these drugs, and the lives and characters of those who use these drugs? Quantify your findings as much as possible (e.g., 80 percent of

advertisements suggest that using tobacco will improve your sex life). To do this, you will have to develop specific questions, such as "Does this advertisement suggest that using tobacco will improve your sex life?"

ANSWER: Answers May Vary

29. Apply what you have learned about healthful decision making by (1) deciding whether a poor person who is overweight is more or less likely to engage in healthful behaviors to lose weight than a wealthy person and (2) explaining why you came to this conclusion using the framework for the Health Lifestyle Theory.

ANSWER: Answers May Vary

30. You are a sociologist who studies health, illness, and health care. You have been approached by a politician who is concerned about the opioid epidemic and wants policy recommendations that are based on sociological evidence. What policies would you recommend?

ANSWER: Answers May Vary