

Arizona State University (ASU) ASB353 Death and Dying in Cross-Cultural Perspective Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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1. According to Lyn Lofland, what are some of the "ties that bind" us to others?
 - A. Social media connections
 - B. The roles we play and help we receive
 - C. Physical proximity to loved ones
 - D. Financial support received over time
2. What concept allows for an unintended harmful effect of a treatment, as long as the harm is not intended?
 - A. Principle of beneficence
 - B. Rule of double effect
 - C. Doctrine of informed consent
 - D. Ethical dilemma resolution
3. Which of the following is NOT a side effect of chemotherapy?
 - A. Nausea and vomiting
 - B. Hair loss
 - C. Cyanotic lymph nodes
 - D. Fatigue
4. How do Western views of dying differ from Eastern perspectives?
 - A. Only Western views take death seriously
 - B. Eastern views emphasize dying as a spiritual journey
 - C. Western views often ignore spirituality
 - D. Eastern views focus solely on family traditions
5. What is the primary purpose of open casket funerals in Western traditions?
 - A. To showcase the deceased's appearance
 - B. To allow mourners to view the deceased
 - C. To facilitate the grieving process
 - D. To conform to societal expectations

6. What factor often shapes the collective view of death in a culture?
- A. Religious beliefs and practices.
 - B. Geographic location.
 - C. Economic status.
 - D. Education level.
7. How do cultural perspectives on suicide vary?
- A. All cultures view it as tragic
 - B. Some see it as dishonorable
 - C. It is always viewed negatively
 - D. Only Western cultures have specific views
8. Which of the following may occur due to globalization's influence on local death attitudes?
- A. Enhanced isolation of cultures
 - B. Greater affiliation with traditional death rituals
 - C. Emergence of cultural conflicts around death perspectives
 - D. Only positive acceptance of foreign ideas
9. How does 'social death' manifest in different cultures?
- A. Through celebrations of life.
 - B. It denotes a disconnection from social identity.
 - C. By honoring ancestors after death.
 - D. Through a communal approach to grieving.
10. What is the significance of storytelling about the dead in various cultures?
- A. Preserving historic events
 - B. Keeping memories alive
 - C. Regulating moral behavior
 - D. All of the above

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. D

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Explanations

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1. According to Lyn Lofland, what are some of the "ties that bind" us to others?

- A. Social media connections
- B. The roles we play and help we receive
- C. Physical proximity to loved ones
- D. Financial support received over time

The concept of "ties that bind" as discussed by Lyn Lofland refers to the deep social connections that individuals maintain through various roles and support systems. This perspective emphasizes that our relationships with others are strengthened by the roles we play in one another's lives, whether as family members, friends, community members, or colleagues. These roles often come with a mutual exchange of help and support, creating a framework of obligation and emotional connection. The idea here is that the essence of human relationships extends beyond mere physical presence or superficial interactions; it is the meaningful engagements and reciprocal assistance that solidify these ties. For instance, when we actively participate in each other's lives and provide support during difficult times, we reinforce our bonds and establish a sense of belonging and community. In this context, social media connections, physical proximity, and financial support are all elements that can influence relationships, but they do not fully encompass the concept of how roles and the exchange of help contribute to the foundational ties Lofland describes. The emphasis on roles and mutual support highlights the intricate ways in which social ties are cultivated and maintained, offering insight into the social fabric of communities and relationships.

2. What concept allows for an unintended harmful effect of a treatment, as long as the harm is not intended?

- A. Principle of beneficence
- B. Rule of double effect
- C. Doctrine of informed consent
- D. Ethical dilemma resolution

The rule of double effect is a significant ethical concept in medical ethics that addresses situations where a treatment or action may have both good and bad effects. This principle holds that it is permissible to carry out an action that has a harmful side effect, as long as the harm is not the intended outcome and the action itself is morally good or neutral. For example, in palliative care, a physician might administer pain relief medication that has the potential side effect of hastening death. According to the rule of double effect, if the physician's intention is solely to alleviate suffering, and not to cause death, the action can be deemed ethically justifiable, despite the unintended consequence. This principle is particularly important in discussions about end-of-life care and interventions where balancing benefits and risks is a critical ethical consideration. By allowing for this nuanced understanding, the rule of double effect acknowledges the complexities inherent in medical decision-making and respects the intentions behind treatments.

3. Which of the following is NOT a side effect of chemotherapy?

- A. Nausea and vomiting
- B. Hair loss
- C. Cyanotic lymph nodes
- D. Fatigue

Cyanotic lymph nodes are not typically recognized as a side effect of chemotherapy. Chemotherapy primarily targets rapidly dividing cells, which can affect not only cancer cells but also normal cells in the body leading to common side effects such as nausea and vomiting, hair loss, and fatigue. Nausea and vomiting occur due to the impact of chemotherapy on the gastrointestinal tract and the brain's vomiting center. Hair loss results from the damage to hair follicles as chemotherapy drugs attack rapidly dividing cells. Fatigue is a frequent side effect, stemming from the body's response to both the drugs and the cancer itself. In contrast, cyanosis refers to a bluish discoloration of the skin or mucous membranes due to insufficient oxygenated blood, which is not a typical reaction to chemotherapy. While lymph node abnormalities can occur in various medical conditions, including those treated with chemotherapy, the specific presentation of cyanotic lymph nodes is not a recognized or expected side effect of the treatment itself.

4. How do Western views of dying differ from Eastern perspectives?

- A. Only Western views take death seriously
- B. Eastern views emphasize dying as a spiritual journey
- C. Western views often ignore spirituality
- D. Eastern views focus solely on family traditions

The selected answer highlights a key aspect of Eastern perspectives on dying, which often view the process as a spiritual journey. This spiritual dimension is deeply embedded in many Eastern cultures, where death is frequently seen as a transition rather than an end. In these contexts, rituals, beliefs in reincarnation, and the idea of the afterlife play significant roles in how individuals and communities approach death. Eastern philosophies often emphasize harmony, mindfulness, and the continuation of the spirit, which fosters a different attitude toward dying compared to Western views. In contrast, Western perspectives on dying often lean more toward a medical or pragmatic framework. Although spirituality may be acknowledged, there can be a stronger focus on the biological and clinical aspects of the dying process. This can lead to a perceived disconnect with the spiritual journey that is emphasized in many Eastern approaches. The other options fail to capture the nuanced differences and may oversimplify the complex relationship between culture and views on death. Western views are not devoid of seriousness regarding death, and while there may be less emphasis on spirituality in some contexts, it is not universally true. Similarly, Eastern views do not solely focus on family traditions; they encompass a broader spiritual context and beliefs that shape the dying experience.

5. What is the primary purpose of open casket funerals in Western traditions?

- A. To showcase the deceased's appearance
- B. To allow mourners to view the deceased
- C. To facilitate the grieving process
- D. To conform to societal expectations

The primary purpose of open casket funerals in Western traditions is to allow mourners to view the deceased. This practice serves several important functions within the grieving process. Viewing the body can help mourners acknowledge the reality of death, providing a tangible connection to the deceased. It can also create a space for closure and facilitate the expression of grief, allowing attendees to say their final goodbyes in a personal and meaningful way. While showcasing the deceased's appearance, facilitating the grieving process, and conforming to societal expectations are relevant aspects of open casket funerals, they do not encompass the core purpose as directly as the opportunity for mourners to view their loved one. The act of viewing is fundamental to how many individuals process loss and engage in their personal grieving rituals within the context of the funeral.

6. What factor often shapes the collective view of death in a culture?

- A. Religious beliefs and practices.
- B. Geographic location.
- C. Economic status.
- D. Education level.

Religious beliefs and practices are central to shaping how different cultures perceive and respond to death. They provide frameworks for understanding life's ultimate questions, the afterlife, and rituals surrounding death, which in turn deeply influence collective attitudes toward mortality. For instance, cultures with a strong belief in reincarnation will approach death with different rituals and understandings compared to those that emphasize eternal life in heaven or a focus on the physical finality of death. In many societies, religious teachings guide mourning practices, celebrations of life, and the perceived significance of life and death transitions. These beliefs dictate how individuals and communities mourn, commemorate the deceased, and even prepare for their own deaths, thereby profoundly influencing the cultural composition of death-related norms and behaviors. While geographic location, economic status, and education level can have an impact on how death is experienced or addressed, they do not necessarily shape the fundamental beliefs about death as directly as religious frameworks. For instance, individuals in the same geographic area might belong to different religions and, consequently, have vastly different views on death. Thus, religious beliefs remain a pivotal factor in shaping the collective view of death within any culture.

7. How do cultural perspectives on suicide vary?

- A. All cultures view it as tragic
- B. Some see it as dishonorable
- C. It is always viewed negatively
- D. Only Western cultures have specific views

Cultural perspectives on suicide are diverse and can significantly impact how individuals and communities interpret the act. Some cultures perceive suicide as dishonorable, stemming from deep-rooted beliefs about honor, shame, and community standing. In societies where collective values are prioritized, taking one's life may be associated with failing to meet social or familial obligations, thus bringing shame upon oneself and one's family. This perspective highlights how honor and societal expectations can shape the understanding of suicide and its implications. Conversely, it's essential to recognize that not all cultures share this view, and some may regard suicide with compassion or as an act of autonomy, reflecting on the individual's suffering or mental health challenges. The other perspectives fail to capture the complexity of this topic. For instance, the idea that all cultures view suicide as tragic does not take into account those societies where it may be seen as a noble or heroic act. Similarly, stating that it is always viewed negatively is an oversimplification, as various cultural contexts may lead to different interpretations. Lastly, the notion that only Western cultures have specific views disregards the rich plurality of beliefs across global cultures regarding death and suicide. Each perspective offers insight into the broader discussions of morality, mental health, and societal influence on personal choices related to death.

8. Which of the following may occur due to globalization's influence on local death attitudes?

- A. Enhanced isolation of cultures
- B. Greater affiliation with traditional death rituals
- C. Emergence of cultural conflicts around death perspectives
- D. Only positive acceptance of foreign ideas

The emergence of cultural conflicts around death perspectives is a significant consequence of globalization's influence on local death attitudes. As cultures interact more through globalization, they exchange ideas, beliefs, and practices surrounding death and dying. This interaction can lead to clashes when differing cultural norms and values come into contact. For instance, a community that traditionally emphasizes collective mourning may experience tension when exposed to individualistic approaches to death from another culture, leading to a conflict in practices and beliefs concerning mortality. Globalization can also challenge long-standing traditions and induce change, which prompts some groups to defend their cultural practices while others may adopt aspects of foreign customs. This shift can create a complex landscape where differing attitudes toward death and dying compete, deeply engaging communities in discussions about their cultural identity and practices surrounding death. While some influences may lead to greater affiliation with traditional death rituals or an enhanced sense of cultural identity, the reality of globalization often brings about tensions and misunderstandings as people navigate between preserving their cultural heritage and adapting to new influences.

9. How does 'social death' manifest in different cultures?

- A. Through celebrations of life.
- B. It denotes a disconnection from social identity.
- C. By honoring ancestors after death.
- D. Through a communal approach to grieving.

The notion of 'social death' primarily pertains to the idea of an individual being removed from their social roles and relationships, leading to a disconnection from their social identity. This phenomenon can be observed across various cultures, where the individual may become isolated or marginalized as a result of illness, mental health issues, or aging. In many societies, a person facing social death loses engagement with community life and may be treated as though they are no longer part of their social sphere. This disconnection often precedes or accompanies physical death and can manifest in various ways—such as being excluded from social gatherings, losing recognition in social roles, or even being seen merely as a burden by others. Recognition of social death can evoke different cultural responses, and while some cultures might celebrate life or honor ancestors, the core aspect of social death is the clear implications of disconnection and loss of social identity rather than the communal or celebratory aspects surrounding death or remembrance. Understanding social death helps to underscore the importance of community and social connections in the experience of dying and can illuminate how different cultures handle the isolation that can accompany serious illness or old age.

10. What is the significance of storytelling about the dead in various cultures?

- A. Preserving historic events
- B. Keeping memories alive
- C. Regulating moral behavior
- D. All of the above

Storytelling about the dead holds profound significance across various cultures, as it serves multiple essential functions. One of the primary roles of these narratives is to preserve historic events, ensuring that the lives, achievements, and contributions of those who have passed are not forgotten. Through stories, communities keep the memory of their ancestors alive, which fosters a sense of identity and continuity for the living. Additionally, storytelling serves as a means of keeping memories alive. It allows families and communities to mourn, celebrate, and honor the deceased, thus creating a shared space for grief and remembrance. This act of storytelling not only connects the living to the past but also provides comfort by illustrating the enduring bond between the dead and the living. Furthermore, storytelling often plays a role in regulating moral behavior. Tales of the deceased can impart lessons or cultural values, guiding individuals on how to live ethically and honorably. Through these narratives, communities reinforce social norms and share ideals of respect, love, and responsibility. Therefore, the significance of storytelling about the dead encompasses the preservation of historic events, the maintenance of memories, and the regulation of moral behavior, making the collective function of these narratives vital to cultural identity and societal cohesion.