

Chapter 01 The Field of Social Gerontology

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (p. 04) Which of the following is not part of the definition of senescence?
- A. It is the application of evolutionary principles to understand decline in old age.
 - B. Death is a part of the process of natural selection.
 - C. Death is a way to weed out worn-out members of a population.
 - D.** Old age can be a period of renewal and increased wisdom.

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2. (p. 04) A subfield of gerontology is:
- A. scientology.
 - B.** social gerontology.
 - C. sociology.
 - D. social work.

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3. (p. 04) Social gerontologists are concerned mainly with the _____ of aging.
- A. physical component
 - B. biological component
 - C.** social component
 - D. financial component

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4. (p. 04) Which of the following is not a factor associated with successful aging?
- A. setting goals and working to achieve them
 - B. participating in meaningful activities
 - C. adopting a lifestyle to reach maximum level of functioning
 - D.** accepting compulsory retirement

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5. (p. 06) Which of the following statements is true about the frail elderly?
- A. They are predominantly engaged in the life of the community.
 - B. They are usually mentally and physically fit.
 - C. They can never improve from their health conditions.
 - D.** They depend on others for carrying out their daily activities.

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6. (p. 06-07) A good example of functional age is:
- A. a person between the ages of 65-74.
 - B. retiring from one's employment at 48.
 - C.** at the age of 58, no longer being able to run 20 miles.
 - D. classifying oneself as "old" or "elderly."

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7. (p. 06) Which of the following is not an example of chronological age?
- A. young-old at 65-74
 - B.** well old at any age
 - C. middle-old 75-84
 - D. oldest-old 85 and older

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8. (p. 06) Chronological age poses a problem in social gerontology because it:

- A. is a subjective factor.
- B. lumps people of different generations together.**
- C. can be a good predictor of old age.
- D. is a specific point in a person's life.

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9. (p. 07) Which of the following statements is true about subjective age identity?

- A. It has no relationship with the gender of an individual.
- B. It appears to be influenced by the social class of an individual.**
- C. It is the accurate description of an individual's functional age.
- D. It typically categorizes people into the well elderly, the impaired elderly, and the frail elderly.

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10. (p. 06) Mrs. Martin recently became a grandmother. The best term to define the change in her life is:

- A. social role.**
- B. functional age.
- C. chronological age.
- D. subjective age.

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11. (p. 07) Which of the following is not one of the functional categories devised by gerontologists?

- A. well elderly
- B. somewhat impaired elderly
- C. employed elderly**
- D. frail elderly

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12. (p. 07) Functional age may be measured by:

- A. reduced skin elasticity.
- B. diminished long-term memory.
- C. speech defect.
- D. level of activity.

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13. (p. 07) Why do women tend to associate more negative connotations with aging than do men?

- A. Women, on average, die earlier than men.
- B. Women are evaluated on physical attractiveness and reproductive potential, and aging affects both.
- C. Women lose mental capacity as they age more quickly than men.
- D. Men think they get better looking with age so they don't mind it as much.

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14. (p. 08) Gerontologists define a "cohort" as the:

- A. study of family processes.
- B. actual number of years lived by a group of people.
- C. average number of years lived by a group of people.
- D. aggregate of individuals who experience the same event within the same time interval.

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15. (p. 09) Which of the following generations is the best educated and most diverse of any generation?

- A. the swing generation
- B. the echo boomers
- C. the millennials
- D. the silent generation

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16. (p. 09) Identify an accurate statement about the millennials.
- A. They are commonly known as the swing generation.
 - B. They were born before Generation X.
 - C.** They are less likely than other generations to practice organized religion.
 - D. They are the least connected generation in the entire human history.

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17. (p. 08) Cohort aging refers to:
- A. people in different historical eras.
 - B. people 85 and over.
 - C. distinctive experiences which cohort members share.
 - D.** the continuous advancement of a cohort to one age category to another over the life span.

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18. (p. 10) A feature of the baby boomer cohort is that:
- A.** it was much larger than the cohort born during the Great Depression.
 - B. it was confronted with an environment that was less competitive than the environment their parents encountered.
 - C. it was the cohort that was more educated than the millennials.
 - D. it was the cohort that had the best connectivity among other cohort groups.

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19. (p. 10) The term "ageism" refers to:
- A. a composite of ideas and beliefs attached to people as a group or category.
 - B. avert or hostile attitudes directed toward a group of people.
 - C. overt action directed toward a group of older people.
 - D.** systematic stereotyping of and discrimination against people because they are old.

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20. (p. 12) People with ageist attitudes:

- A. often view women more harshly than they view men.
- B. predominantly believe that older people usually live free of disability.
- C. typically refrain from stereotyping older people who receive healthcare.
- D. assume that older people are politically weak.

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21. (p. 13) All of the following are examples of the double standard of aging by gender except:

- A. men are more likely to be evaluated for their sexual appeal and women for emotional support.
- B. men are more likely to be independent and self-reliant than women.
- C. aging in women is less attractive than for men.
- D. women are more likely to use cosmetic techniques to conceal their age than men.

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22. (p. 12) Research has found that television:

- A. consistently portrays the aged in a positive and non-stereotypical fashion.
- B. ads have improved significantly in the way they depict older people.
- C. mostly does not focus on young people.
- D. rarely treats older people with disrespect.

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23. (p. 14) A fact about aging is that:

- A. most retirees are busy, active, and satisfied with their working lives.
- B. more than 80 percent of people 65 and older live in nursing homes.
- C. older men and women spend only 10 percent of their lives free of disability.
- D. people become extremely mellow as they grow old.

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24. (p. 14) Which of the following is not a stereotype of older adults?

- A. The aged are isolated from family members.
- B. Most older people are disabled.
- C.** The majority of men and women are out of the labor force by age 62.
- D. The aged are politically powerful.

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25. (p. 18) Which group has the highest income in old age?

- A. unmarried people
- B.** married couples
- C. women living alone
- D. men living alone

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26. (p. 18) Which of the following statements is true about education?

- A. High school completion rates are the same across different ethnic groups.
- B.** Younger minorities are much more likely than their elders to have a college degree.
- C. The educational gap by race and ethnicity is ever widening.
- D. Each succeeding generation has less education opportunities than the generation that preceded it.

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True / False Questions

27. (p. 04) Social gerontology is a subfield of gerontology, concerned primarily with the social aspects of aging.

TRUE

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28. (p. 05) Successful aging involves both the individual and society.

TRUE

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29. (p. 06) There is one major definition of aging.

FALSE

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30. (p. 08) An example of age cohort would include all interns at a particular company.

TRUE

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31. (p. 09) The millennials are less likely than other generations to hold liberal attitudes toward controversial issues such as gay marriage.

FALSE

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32. (p. 09) People who were born during the Depression are members of the "Swing Cohort."

FALSE

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33. (p. 09) There is little variation in cohorts by gender or ethnic composition.

FALSE

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34. (p. 10) According to research, by the year 2017 more than 66% of very old women will have at least two surviving children.

TRUE

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35. (p. 10) Research has found that by middle school age, most children held uniform views about the elderly.

FALSE

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36. (p. 11) In the context of ageism, prejudice refers to negative stereotypes about older people.

TRUE

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37. (p. 13) The portrayal of elderly people in television ads has improved significantly in the last 40 years.

TRUE

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38. (p. 16) Men are more likely to be widowed than women.

FALSE

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39. (p. 15) The majority of older people are in poor health.

FALSE

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Essay Questions

40. How would you define successful aging?

Answers will vary.

41. How are older people depicted in the television shows that you watch?

Answers will vary.