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Chapter 1: Introduction to Assessment

Introduction

What Is Assessment?

The Purposes of Assessment

Multiple Methods and Multiple Sources

The Assessment Process

Competencies Required for Assessment

Historical Perspectives

Assessment and Technology

Computer-Based Assessment

Internet-Based Assessment

Controversial Issues in Assessment

Summary

Moving Forward

Questions for Discussion

Suggested Activities

References

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following statements is the most accurate?
 - a. Assessment begins after the first face-to-face meeting with a client.
 - b. Assessment occurs only in the first meeting with a client.
 - c. Assessment occurs throughout the course of the helping relationship.
 - d. All of the above.
2. In addition to tests, professionals may also gather client information from:
 - a. interviews
 - b. observations
 - c. collateral sources
 - d. all of the above
3. Which statement is correct?
 - a. Assessment is only one part of the overall testing process.
 - b. Testing is only one part of the overall assessment process.
 - c. Testing integrates test information with information from other sources.
 - d. None of the above
4. _____ is a quick process, usually involving a single procedure of instrument.
 - a. Screening
 - b. Testing
 - c. Assessment
 - d. Psychological evaluation
5. Assessment involves selecting and utilizing _____ of data collection.
 - a. multiple observations
 - b. multiple tests
 - c. multiple methods
 - d. multiple techniques

6. A client is assessed to determine a course of outcome that would improve his or her concerns or problems. In this situation, the purpose for assessment is:
 - a. screening
 - b. identification and diagnosis
 - c. intervention planning
 - d. progress and outcome evaluation
7. The first and most important step in the assessment process is to:
 - a. determine if the client is suitable for services
 - b. screen the client for potential problems and concerns
 - c. identify the client's problems to be addressed and the reason for assessment
 - d. none of the above
8. Identify the correct order of the steps of the assessment process:
 - a. select and implement assessment methods; identify the problem; evaluate the assessment information; report assessment results and make recommendations
 - b. identify the problem; select and implement assessment methods; evaluate the assessment information; report assessment results and make recommendations
 - c. identify the problem; evaluate the assessment information; select and implement assessment methods; report assessment results and make recommendations
 - d. select and implement assessment methods; evaluate the assessment information; identify the problem; report assessment results and make recommendations
9. One of the first scales to differentiate between children who could or could not function in a regular classroom was developed by:
 - a. Binet
 - b. Otis
 - c. Simon
 - d. Thorndike
10. Complaints about test use include all EXCEPT:
 - a. Testing is an invasion of privacy.
 - b. Tests are gender-biased and use inappropriate language, examples, and illustrations.
 - c. Tests are culturally biased; they are unfair and discriminate against minority groups.
 - d. Tests do not demonstrate a master of competencies; we must always rely on grades and diplomas.
11. Testing began:
 - a. Around 2000 years ago
 - b. Around 500 years ago
 - c. Around 100 years ago
 - d. Around 50 years ago
12. The first major personality assessment was also developed for use during:
 - a. World War I
 - b. World War II
 - c. The Vietnam War
 - d. The Gulf War
13. In recent years, the prevailing political philosophy in the United States has changed from:
 - a. a liberal to a more conservative orientation
 - b. humanistic-based approaches to competency-based approaches

- c. low accountability in education to high accountability in education
- d. all of the above

14. Early interest in measuring intelligence dates back to the late 19th century when _____ applied Darwin's evolutionary theory to attempt to demonstrate a hereditary basis for intelligence.
- Binet
 - Galton
 - Cattell
 - Simon
15. The first group intelligence test used in the United States military service was the
- Armed Forces Qualification Test
 - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
 - Army Alpha Test
 - Army Beta Test
16. Which of the following are advantages to using computer administered assessment instruments includes all?
- Increased delivery
 - Potential time savings
 - The ability for items to be adapted or tailored based on the test taker's response to a previous item
 - All of the above
17. The primary purpose of _____ is to gather background information about the client relevant to the reason for assessment.
- tests
 - observations
 - interviews
 - collateral sources
18. _____ is an assessment method that involves watching and recording the behavior
- of an individual in a particular environment.
 - Testing
 - Observation
 - Interviewing
 - Reviewing records

Essay Questions

1. Define the term "assessment," and compare and contrast the four general purposes of assessment.
2. Identify and describe the three broad categories of assessment "methods." Explain the purpose of using multiple methods in assessment as opposed to a single assessment instrument.

3. Compare and contrast formal assessment instruments and informal assessment instruments/strategies and provide three examples of each.
4. List and describe each of the four steps of the assessment process.
5. Trace the history of psychological and educational assessment from ancient time to the present.

Chapter 2: Methods and Sources of Assessment Information

Introduction

Assessment Methods and Sources

Formal and Informal Assessment Instruments and Strategies

The Initial Interview

Degrees of Structure in Interviews

Structured Interviews

Semi-Structured Interviews

Unstructured Interviews

Interview Guidelines

Tests

Categories of Tests

Area of Assessment

Standardized and Non-Standardized Tests

Individual and Group Tests

Maximum-Performance and Typical-Performance Tests

Verbal and Nonverbal Tests

Objective and Subjective Tests

Other Terminology

Participants in the Testing Process

Computer-Based Tests

Observation

Formal and Informal Observation

Direct and Indirect Observation

Natural and Contrived Settings

Unobtrusive and Participant Observation

Methods of Recording Observations

Event Recording

Duration Recording

Time Sampling

Rating Scales

Anecdotal Records

Self-Monitoring

Collateral Sources

Summary

Questions for Discussion

Suggested Activities

References

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The primary purpose of an interview is to
 - a. help reduce a client's emotional distress
 - b. promote behavior change
 - c. work through crises
 - d. obtain relevant information and determine the interviewee's problem
2. Which of the following is true about an unstructured interview?
 - a. The interviewer is free to ask questions about whatever he or she feels is relevant
 - b. The interview does not follow an agenda
 - c. It has strong reliability and validity
 - d. It relies on a set of specified questions

3. Which of the following is an important guideline for a successful interview?
 - a. Describe confidentiality and the limits of confidentiality within the interview
 - b. Be alert to nonverbal behavior
 - c. Ask open-ended questions first
 - d. all of the above
4. Which of the following is the most frequent type of interview used by practicing counselors?
 - a. open-ended
 - b. unstructured
 - c. semi-structured
 - d. structured
5. Karen is a mental health counseling student who is working on a research project with one of her professors. As part of this research, she is required to interview prospective participants. Karen has a list of fifteen specific questions that she must ask in the same order with each participant. What type of interview is Karen most likely using?
 - a. open-ended
 - b. unstructured
 - c. semi-structured
 - d. structured
6. A test that measures an individual's verbal ability, abstract reasoning, and memory would be best described as a(n)
 - a. personality test
 - b. achievement test
 - c. intelligence test
 - d. aptitude test
7. The most thorough way that counselors should assess an individual is by using
 - a. standardized tests
 - b. interviews
 - c. observations
 - d. multiple methods
8. Which of the following is the best example of a nonstandardized test?
 - a. A multiple-choice test created by a teacher to assess how well her students learned the material covered throughout the semester
 - b. An intelligence test used to assess for gifted placement in schools
 - c. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) used for admission to graduate school
 - d. A well-researched depression inventory (e.g., Beck Depression Inventory) used to assess for depression in clients
9. _____ tests are used to appraise some aspect of a person's knowledge, skills, or abilities.
 - a. Maximum-performance
 - b. Typical-performance
 - c. Objective
 - d. Subjective
10. An _____ contains selected-response items, each of which contains a single correct or best answer.
 - a. Maximum-performance
 - b. Typical-performance
 - c. Objective
 - d. Subjective

11. Tests that are non-evaluative are most likely to measure an individual's ____?
 - a. skills
 - b. ability
 - c. knowledge
 - d. attitudes
12. Which of the following is most likely to be concerned with using the results of a test to make clinical decisions?
 - a. test user
 - b. test developer
 - c. test reviewer
 - d. test publisher
13. An agency director who is concerned with the agency's budget is most likely to consult the _____ when evaluating the cost of a specific test?
 - a. research literature
 - b. test manual
 - c. test references
 - d. test publisher's catalogue
14. Which of the following is NOT an advantage of a computer-based test?
 - a. It can be used by all test takers
 - b. It is cost-effective
 - c. It has a flexible administration schedule
 - d. It provides immediate scoring and results interpretation
15. Sue, a school counselor is observing a student's behavior in the classroom. She is monitoring how often the student gets out of his seat while working on a class activity. In order to record this behavior, Sue makes a check mark on a tally sheet and counts how many times the student got out of his seat. Which observation recording method is Sue using?
 - a. duration recording
 - b. time sampling
 - c. event recording
 - d. self-monitoring
16. When a test accurately measures what it is intended to measure it is said to have sound
 - a. cost-effectiveness
 - b. reliability
 - c. consistency
 - d. validity
17. While selecting a test to use in his private practice, Kent discovered that a particular test was not very consistent or stable over time. In other words, a test-taker's score varied each time he or she took it. Kent can most likely infer that:
 - a. the test is biased
 - b. the test has a poor evidence of validity
 - c. the test makers did not use an appropriate norming sample
 - d. the test has poor evidence of reliability
18. Evadne, a teacher at an elementary school is completing a rating scale for one her students. The teacher has often complained about the student to the school counselor, leaving a bad impression about the student on the school counselor. Which of the following rating scale errors is most likely to occur?
 - a. severity
 - b. negative halo
 - c. social desirability

- d. response deviance
- 19. All of the following are forms of collateral sources of information *except*:
 - a. self-monitoring
 - b. rating scale completed by a parent
 - c. school records
 - d. interview with a teacher
- 20. Jacqueline, a school psychologist, is observing a child in her classroom. Jacqueline is completing a structured checklist of the child's disruptive behaviors while the child is interacting with peers. What best describes the type of observation Jacqueline is doing?
 - a. direct, naturalistic, and obtrusive
 - b. direct, naturalistic, and unobtrusive
 - c. direct, contrived, and unobtrusive
 - d. direct, contrived, and obtrusive

Chapter 2 Essay Questions

- 1. Discuss the different categories of interviews. Describe some of the advantages and disadvantages of each type.
- 2. Discuss some of the purposes of using tests in assessment. Provide examples of situations where testing may be used.
- 3. Imagine that you are working in your future profession. In what situation might you conduct an observation? Describe a hypothetical observation and the observation method you would use.
- 4. Identify and describe the three primary sources of collateral information. Give examples of each source. Describe a situation that illustrates the use of collateral information in the assessment process.

CHAPTER 1

Answer Key

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. a
5. c
6. c
7. c
8. b
9. a
10. d
11. a
12. a
13. d
14. b
15. c
16. d
17. c
18. c

CHAPTER 2

Answer Key

1. d
2. a
3. d
4. b
5. d
6. c
7. d
8. a
9. a
10. c
11. d
12. a
13. d
14. a
15. c
16. d
17. d
18. b
19. a
20. b