

Chapter 1: Overview of Epidemiology: Concepts and History

Multiple Choice

1. In the field of epidemiology, which factor is used to analyze the distribution of a health related event, state, or process?

- a. Climate
- b. Seasons
- c. Economics
- d. Populations

<Answer: d>

<Rationale: Distribution is an analysis by time, place (or space), and population (meaning groups of persons affected in an organization, population, or society) while focusing on a specified region or encompassing the globe.>

<Ahead: Origin and Definitions>

<Chapter Number: 1>

<Complexity: Easy>

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2. Determinants are the numerous factors that influence health. Which option is considered to be a determinant?

- a. Time and place
- b. Health related behaviors
- c. Type of population exposed
- d. Previous exposure to the disease

<Answer: b>

<Rationale: Determinants are the numerous factors that influence health, such as the geophysical, biological, behavioral, social, cultural, economic, and political factors. Health related behaviors are a determinant to diseases.>

<Ahead: Origin and Definitions>

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<Complexity: Moderate>

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3. The public health nurse notices the presence of disease affecting a large number of people, extending over large areas and crossing international boundaries. Which is the correct epidemiological term applied to the nurse's findings?

- a. Endemic
- b. Epidemic
- c. Pandemic
- d. Sporadic

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<Answer: c>

<Rationale: If an epidemic affects a large number of people, extending over large areas and crossing international boundaries, then it is called a pandemic.>

<Ahead: Scope of Epidemiology>

<Chapter Number: 1>

<Complexity: Easy>

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4. Epidemiology offers a systematic approach to study the distribution and determinants of various health-related events in order to improve the health of a population. In which additional setting is epidemiology applicable?

- a. Clinical
- b. Educational
- c. Political
- d. Psychological

<Answer: a>

<Rationale: Epidemiology is also applicable in clinical arenas. Clinical epidemiology focuses on patients and the application of epidemiologic methods to ascertain the efficacy of screening tests, diagnoses, and treatments in clinical settings.>

<Ahead: Scope of Epidemiology>

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<Complexity: Difficult>

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5. Omran identifies three major stages in Proposition Two, which poses that a long-term shift occurs in mortality and disease patterns that results in the gradual displacement of pandemics of infection. Which is a major stage identified in this proposition?

- a. The age of stagnating pandemics
- b. The age of environmental disease
- c. The age of physical deterioration
- d. The age of pestilence and famine

<Answer: d>

<Rationale: Omran outlines 3 major stages identified in Proposition Two: 1. The Age of Pestilence and Famine, 2. The Age of Receding Pandemics, and 3. The Age of Degenerative and Man-Made Diseases.>

<Ahead: A Theoretical Underpinning: The Epidemiologic Transition>

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<Complexity: Difficult>

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True/False

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6. Socrates is credited with first using the term “epidemic” in relation to diseases that could occur to people within a country.

- a. True
- b. False

<Answer: False>

<Rationale: Hippocrates is credited with first using the term epidemic approximately 2,500 years ago. The term is derived from two Greek words: *epi* (upon) and *demos* (people).>

<Ahead: Origins and Definitions>

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<Complexity: Moderate>

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7. Population growth is consistent when a population experiences deaths due to perennial epidemics, plagues, famines, and wars because fertility tends to remain high.

- a. True
- b. False

<Answer: False>

<Rationale: According to Omran, population growth is diminished when a population experiences deaths due to perennial epidemics, plagues, famines, and wars even if fertility is persistently high.>

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<Complexity: Difficult>

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8. The epidemiology triangle, or triad, is traditionally comprised of three factors: host, infectious agent, and the environment.

- a. True
- b. False

<Answer: True>

<Rationale: The epidemiology triangle, or triad, is traditionally comprised of three factors: host, infectious agent, and the environment. Some epidemiologists have included a fourth factor in the middle of the triangle, such as time or vector.>

<Ahead: The Language of Epidemiology>

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Fill-in-the-Blank

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9. _____ examines the “why” and “how” aspects of health-related events by posing hypotheses about relationships and using statistical tests that include a comparison group.

<Answer: Analytic epidemiology>

<Rationale: Epidemiology uses two approaches to study health related events: descriptive epidemiology and analytic epidemiology. Analytic epidemiology looks for the “why” and “how,” while descriptive epidemiology focuses on the “who,” “what,” “when,” and “where” aspects of those events.>

<Ahead: Scope of Epidemiology>

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<Complexity: Moderate>

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10. Aspects of primary prevention include both _____ and _____ primary prevention.

<Answer: active; passive>

<Rationale: Active primary prevention requires an individual change in a person’s behavior, while passive primary prevention does not require a behavior change by an individual, but can reflect more of a structural change. An active primary prevention example is smoking cessation. A passive primary prevention example is adding fluoride to drinking water.>

<Ahead: Scope of Epidemiology>

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