

## Chapter 5

### Horney: Essay Questions

#### Question #1

Karen Horney felt that penis envy wasn't about women being envious. Instead, she believed the cause was the fault of cultural and social forces in a patriarchal society, not because of anatomical differences. She maintained that penis envy originates in the girl's desire to urinate like a boy. In society's laws, religion, morality, science, art, and business, men dominate while women occupy and feel inferior. Horney states that penis envy is not a castration complex. Instead, envy is a justifiable envy of qualities associated with masculinity in our culture.

#### Question #4

Horney believed that children's social and cultural experiences are crucial in determining their adult personalities and that harsh and arbitrary treatment of children by parents lays the foundation for neurosis. Horney believed that parents generally adopt society's values; their relationships with their children are often hypercompetitive and give rise to neuroses. These attitudes and behaviors from these parents of hypercompetitiveness cause disturbed relationships. These behaviors include direct or indirect domination—a lack of respect for the child's needs and guidance. There may also be erratic behavior among the parents, causing a hostile environment. This behavior is invariably multidetermined, with several factors operating jointly to produce disturbance. This causes basic anxiety in children, leaving them feeling isolated and helpless in a potentially hostile world.

## Question #5

Basic anxiety is the painful psychological state in which a person feels isolated and helpless in a potentially hostile world. Horney believed that the four different ways of coping against basic anxiety were securing affection and love, being submissive, attaining power, and withdrawing. People protect themselves against anxiety through affection, submission, power, or withdrawal. Horney classified these defense mechanisms into three basic types: the Compliant type, the aggressive type, and the detached type. The compliant type seeks the approval and affection of others by conforming to excess. These individuals move toward people this way. It protects them against basic anxiety by self-effacement and obliteration. The aggressive type is the individuals who defend themselves against feelings of insecurity by exploiting others so they feel superior. They adjust by moving against people to seek to control basic anxiety by using and dominating others. The last type is detached. These individuals protect themselves by continually avoiding others. These individuals move away from people watching from primary anxiety by complete detachment and extreme independence.