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Unit 6 Essay Questions

Question #16 (Ch. 12)

Schizophrenia manifests itself in multiple ways that differ based on the individual, with Nash's case it was shown through episodes of seeing and hearing things that weren't actually there. For example, he stated he would hear aliens talking to him which would have a major impact on his actions on himself and other people. His behavior and communication was also greatly affected by it, he would have difficulty communicating with other people and would often walk around his school campus in an appeared state of trance.

I believe that a major cause of Nash's schizophrenia was likely genetic, as we saw with his son. He acquired it from his father, so it is safe to assume that it likely runs in the family. Although this may not be the sole source, John Nash had a very complex mind with many different moving parts. It is also safe to assume that his brain chemistry was wired in a way that predisposed him to the disorder.

I believe that we can not reason ourselves out of a major psychological disorder, this is because Nash's condition was deeply rooted in his unique brain structure. Although Nash was a genius, it is safe to assume that he had a mind that is not similar to the average individual, because of this, his schizophrenia can be explained in this way.

Question # (Ch. 12)

Positive symptoms are considered to be “additions” to a person’s behavior that are not found in normal healthy individuals, they are used to properly diagnose schizophrenia disorder. The four prominent ones are delusions, unorganized thoughts, increased perceptions with hallucinations, and inappropriate affect.

Delusions are basically the belief in things or objects that have no real basis in reality. An example of this is an individual who believes that they are being stalked or plotted against, someone may be paranoid because they believe that they are always in danger from someone trying to hurt them.

Unorganized thoughts is a blanket term for the individual not being able to coherently and logically gather their thoughts in proper ways. Communication with other individuals may be greatly affected and the individual may feel extremely confused to the point of not being able to properly think.

Hallucinations are incredibly common with schizophrenia patients, they may hear sounds and voices or see things that aren’t actually there but they believe they are. These hallucinations appear in the absence of external stimuli to confirm them.

Lastly, inappropriate affect is when an individual feels emotions that are completely unsuited to their situation. An example of this is feeling happy in a situation that should be making them distressed and unhappy, such as the death of a loved one or a rejection from a job.

Question #8 (Ch. 12)

Lobotomies were briefly considered to be a miracle cure for schizophrenia because they allegedly cured patients of their mental disorders. They were also widely accepted at first because there was a need to rid the hospitals of the overcrowding due to the numerous patients with mental disorders. Lobotomies came at a time when a quick fix was desperately needed. They were dangerous because this procedure hadn't been properly developed and research was not done into the potential side effects of it.

Usually, lobotomies would leave the patients extremely subdued and lacking in normal motor functions. In addition to these results, there would also be a huge risk for brain seizures, loss of motor coordination, paralysis, and emotional unresponsiveness. Essentially, they had major unintended effects on the individual and their brain, which is an incredibly important part of the human body.

Question #19 (Ch. 12)

I believe that the overuse of drug therapy in treating psychotic patients is a very real problem in our country. This is because these drugs are oftentimes prescribed to patients who don't actually need them or won't directly benefit from them, rather they need psychological help to unearth and understand their behavioral deficiencies.

I believe that schizophrenic patients should have a major role in determining their treatment, they should not ever be forced to endure drug

therapy if they do not directly agree to it first. Typically they are not given this authority especially when they are incredibly lost mentally, it usually falls on a family member or the healthcare providers to make this critical decision.

Question #32 (Ch. 13)

Selfies are a practice in which an individual takes a self portrait of themselves solo or with other people. There have been many arguments for and against the practice of taking selfies, many researchers have concluded that they are representative of narcissistic personality traits, while others believe that taking selfies is a completely natural part of being a young adult today. Nonetheless, there are multiple points that directly relate them to narcissism.

One of the ideas that point to a narcissistic personality is the fact that individuals take a large amount of them at a single time or over a period of time, this can be seen as a sign for seeking validation due to the absolute need for fulfilling their self-esteem. This might be indicative of a deeper stream of narcissism heavily rooted in the individual. This makes sense when you think about it at a deeper level, selfies encourage an individual to flaunt themselves as frequently as possible for as much time as possible. Selfies could be considered an outlet for a person to fulfill their narcissistic tendencies towards a wider audience, also known as social media. While it is safe to assume that the average person who takes selfies is doing so harmlessly, it is important to recognize the possible narcissistic reasons someone may be doing it.

Question #34 (Ch. 13)

Individuals with dependent personalities constantly need to be fulfilled and have an innate desire to be taken care of by those around them, this can manifest itself as being extremely clingy and fearing abandonment from people in their lives. Although this is a normal feeling in individuals in doses, people with this disorder feel it to the extreme ends and it will often impede their abilities to have healthy relationships with those around them.

There are multiple proposed explanations for the development of dependency disorder, one of them is that it stems from a childhood trauma that causes a person to need lifelong nurturance from other people. For example, if a child was abandoned early on by one or both parents, they will innately fear being left alone and will always need validation from those around them. I once dated a girl whose father left her at an early age, this would manifest itself as her constantly needing attention from me and being extremely uncomfortable when we weren't together a majority of the time. Behavior roots may also be a cause for someone to develop this type of personality disorder, since behavior can be learned from parents or a caretaker, a parent with a dependency disorder may inadvertently pass it on to their child.

Question #35 (Ch. 13)

Obsessive-compulsive personality disorder manifests itself in individuals by having a complete preoccupation with order and control, this causes them to lose any ability to be flexible or allow things outside what they perceive to be natural order.

Some of the major characteristics of this disorder are the individual not allowing things to be outside the way they want them to be. For example, an individual may reorganize things or objects even if somebody else sets them out in their own way. I knew a person in high school who would carry around a screwdriver because he always hated how the screws on lightswitches weren't uniform with each other, so he would fix it by himself whenever he saw it. Individuals with OCD also tend to be extremely stubborn and unwilling to change their behaviors or things they hold, this can manifest itself by the individual getting frustrated when things aren't the way they want them to be and taking it out on others.

Lastly, people with OCD may have unreasonably high standards that they set for themselves or people around them, whether it is on purpose or not. They tend to get upset when their standards are not met, and oftentimes refuse to work with other people because they believe that their performance will be affected by other people.

Question #31 (Ch. 13)

Initially, I would be curious to know why my friend feels the way he does. I would gather information from him about what he knows about the school shooting problem in our country without interjecting with my own opinions. I would also agree with him that the mass shootings are indeed a very tragic and sad thing that occurs in this country.

After having this initial discussion, I would offer my own opinions about the social problem and what we can do as a country to properly alleviate the problem.