

ANSWERS TO TEST YOURSELF QUESTIONS CHAPTER 9

1. Describe the axes of the DSM classification system.

Axis I: clinical syndromes such as phobias and attentional deficit disorder

Axis II: personality disorders and mental retardation

Axis III: general medical condition that may be relevant to the person's psychological condition

Axis IV: psychosocial and environmental conditions (e.g., stress) which may contribute to the person's psychological condition

Axis V: global assessment of functioning during the past year in terms of work, leisure and social relationships

2. What role does the biological approach believe that genetics play in the aetiology of mental disorders?

The biological approach suggests that genetics may be responsible for a person's potential to develop a mental disorder, given interacting environmental conditions (stressors).

3. What are positive symptoms of schizophrenia? What are negative symptoms of schizophrenia?

Positive symptoms: Symptoms which are present and associated with schizophrenia (e.g., delusions, hallucinations and thought disturbances)

Negative symptoms: Symptoms indicated by the absence of expected behaviours (e.g., bodily immobility, limited speech, flattened affect and social withdrawal)

4. What is expressed emotion? What role does it play in schizophrenia?

Expressed emotion refers to communication patterns which are marked by high levels of criticism, hostility and emotional intensity. Relapse rates are much higher when individuals with schizophrenia reside in families with high levels of expressed emotion.