Understanding Dying Death and Bereavement 8th edition Leming Test Bank

SKU: 9781305094499-TEST-BANK

CHAPTER 2

THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE OF DEATH

Chapter Outline

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True-False Questions

1. Seventy-five percent of current deaths in the United States occur in institutional settings—hospitals and nursing homes. **True**

2. According to the United Nations' definition of death, a death cannot occur until a live birth has taken place. **True**

3. The Harvard definition of death defines death in terms of respiration and heart functioning. **False**

4. Ultimately, all deaths are brain deaths. **True**

5. The death of an individual is a personal, not a social, experience. **False**

6. When a person dies, many "person" or role occupants die. **True**

7. Using euphemisms for death suggests that the United States is a death-denying society. **True**

8. According to Leming and Dickinson, the fear of the unknown and the fate of the body are the two areas of greatest anxiety for most people. **False**

9. For most people the process of dying causes less concern than the event of death. **False**

10. In thanatology "death fear" and "death anxiety" are used synonymously. **True**

11. Death anxiety is a multidimensional concept. **True**

12. It is only in recent years that we have been able to scientifically determine the real meaning of death. **False**

13. The meaning of death is socially determined by human beings rather than determined biologically. **True**

14. In all likelihood, the meaning of death may change in the future as it has in the past. **True**

15. Cryonics suggests a denial of death. **True**

16. According to Radcliffe-Brown, religion provides individuals with a sense of comfort and anxiety relief. **False**

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17. Death is inherently fearful—all people fear death by nature. **False**

18. Malinowski viewed religion as the "great anxiety reliever." **True**

19. The empirical research by Michael Leming supported Homans' theorizing on the relationship between religion and death anxiety. **True**

20. People tend to fear the process of dying more than the event of death. **True**

21. Between 1600 and 1830, death was a living part of the American experience. **True**

22. Like modern thanatologists, Puritans felt an awareness of death could improve the quality of life. **True**

23. Puritans encouraged each other to fear death. **True**

24. At the time of death, the Puritan family usually sent for a medical doctor to care for the corpse. **False**

25. It was customary for Puritans to embalm the body before burial. **False**

26. Puritans were more likely to pray for the soul of the deceased than they were for the comfort of the bereaved. **False**

27. At the beginning of the 20th century, the funeral industry attempted to keep death out of sight and out of mind. **True**

28. Middle-class Americans in the late 19th century wished to experience death *with order*. **True**

29. The "ideology of separate spheres" in the late 19th century contributed to more open discussion of death in American society. **False**

30. During the Victorian era in American society, grievers were encouraged to express their emotions in response to the death of a loved one. **False**

31, Scientific naturalism contributed to the hope that physical immortality might be a possibility for future Americans. **True**

32. The threat of "megadeath" war inherently calls into question the possibility of all forms of immortality. **True**

33. Death was "resurrected" in America after World War I, the first truly global

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war. **False**

34. Perhaps the most accurate way to determine death is via brain death using an EEG. **True**

35. The case of Terri Schiavo in Florida in 2004-2005 illustrates the importance of an advanced directive. **True**

36. The Living Death period of the history of death was from 1830 to 1945. **False**

37. Whether or not the United States is a death-denying society is not agreed upon, according to your text. **True**

38. Since World War I many requiem compositions are dedicated to large groups of the deceased, not to individuals. **True**

39. Death cafes are cropping up in the UK and US in the 21st Century. **True**

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Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The Harvard definition of death refers to

a. no heartbeat.
b. no longer breathing.
*c. brain stops functioning.
d. both a and b.
e. none of the above.

2. The centralist theory of the diagnosis of death

a. was the prominent view in the 14th century.
b. proposed that the entire body and every organ and cell possessed the life force.
*c. has been resurrected by the modern theory of brain death.
d. includes both a and b.
e. includes none of the above.

3. The President's Commission for the study of Biomedical and Behavioral Research to study ethical and legal implications regarding death definitions was established by President

a. Carter.
b. Clinton.
c. Eisenhower.
d. Bush.
*e. Reagan.

4. Which is *not* evidence that the United States is a death-denying society?

a. Euphemisms are used for death.
b. A taboo on death conversation
c. Cryonics
*d. Having life insurance
e. Calling in a professional to handle the body

5. According to Leming and Dickinson, which of the following is true?

a. People who have weak religious commitments are most likely to fear death.
b. People who have strong religious commitments are most likely to fear death.
*c. People who have moderate religious commitments are most likely to fear death.
d. None of the above have been demonstrated by empirical research.

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6. Which of the following is *true*?

a. According to Radcliffe-Brown, religion provides individuals with a sense of comfort and anxiety relief.
b. What a person believes about dying has more influence than how deeply he or she believes it.
c. George Homans disagreed with both Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown, arguing that death anxiety is highest for both the very religious and the nonbeliever.
*****d. The empirical research by Michael Leming supported Homans's theorizing on the relationship between religion and death anxiety.
e. All of the above.

7. The middle class in the late 19th century achieved "death with order" by

a. making sure the death of loved ones occurred in full view of the family.
b. preparing funeral arrangements far in advance.
*****c. creating separate sphere ideology: men's work away from the home, women's work from men's, specialists (medical, clerical, etc.).
d. None of the above.

8. Death was "resurrected" after 1945, why?

*****a. The atomic age brought about the possible annihilation of the entire human race.
b. The losses of millions of soldiers in WWII "brought death home" for the world.
c. People began to fear death more because of the increase in infant deaths.
d. Society began to look inward for answers, and death as a topic naturally evolved.

9. The Puritans encouraged each other to _____ death.

a. look forward to
b. think about
c. be anxious toward
*****d. fear

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10. Which of the following statements is *false* concerning death-related behavior of the Puritans?

a. Puritans felt that an awareness of death could improve the quality of life.
b. Puritans encouraged each other to fear death.
*****c. It was customary for Puritans to embalm the body before the burial.
d. The Puritans felt that death was a living part of the American experience.

11. Which of the following statements is *false*?

a. In most areas of America, a basically "Puritan Way of Death" persisted until the 19th century.
*****b. The "ideology of separate spheres" contributed to more open discussion of death in American society.
c. At the turn of the 20th century, the funeral industry attempted to keep death out of sight and out of mind.
d. Middle-class Americans wished to experience death *with order*.

12. Which of the following statements is *false* concerning death-related behavior of Americans during the Victorian period of history?

*****a. Grievers were encouraged to express their emotions in response to the death of a loved one.
b. A more elaborate funeral ritual involving "therapeutic self- indulgence" was encouraged.
c. Mourning clothes were worn as one method for extending the period of lamentation.
d. None of the above.

13. During the Dying of Death Period (1830–1945), which did *not* occur?

a. Landscaped rural cemeteries
b. Life insurance
*****c. Fall of the middle class
d. Professional funeral organizations

14. The case in Florida of Terri Schiavo in 2004-2005 illustrates the importance of

*a. an advanced directive.
b. a will.
c. dying without a will.
d. stem-cell research.

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Essay Questions

1. Discuss the differences between biological and symbolic death.

2. What arguments can you offer to reject the following premise: In death, biology is primary, meaning is peripheral?

3. Discuss the implications of the following quote: "Even though it is but one biological body that dies, many 'role holes' or vacancies are left with the death of that one person."

4. In making decisions about death meaning, how does the treatment of the dying patient affect that patient's understanding of death and his or her role in the dying process?

5. What are some of the meanings of "Not Dying?"

6. Refute or support this statement: "The United States is a death-denying society."

7. What factors have contributed to the American avoidance of death and dying?

8. How has the definition of death changed over the years? What complications has this created for the American way of dying?

9. Write a brief essay on putting a price on human life. Include in your discussion why a monetary value seems of importance in today's way of life.

10. What types of death fears are the most salient for Americans? How might you explain why these fears are more intense than other fears?

11. Why is death in the United States viewed as fearful?

12. What effect did dropping the atom bomb during WWII have on American death conceptions?

13. What do you think should have happened in the Terri Schiavo case in Florida in 2005? Should she have been allowed to live, or was the action taken appropriate?

14. What is meant by the "medicalization of death"? Cite specific examples.

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