

The Critical Concepts Exam

1. What is the purpose of a process group? (2 pts)

- explore the socio-emotional processes in a small group (1pt)
- learn about your own personality and interpersonal style (1pt)

2. What does "LE"? stand for? (10 pts)

List and briefly describe the 3 components of the LE.

- it's an interpersonal learning environment
- self-disclosure
 - revealing something about your thoughts, feelings, personality, background
 - revealing how you are reacting to group and people in it
- feedback
 - responding to another's self-disclosure
 - offering feedback on how you see someone behaving in group
- group processing
 - talking about how the group as a whole is feeling and behaving (the group's "personality")
 - talking about the developmental history of the group

3. List and describe the 3 levels of intensity of the LE. (6 pts)

- low (chit chat): learn little bits about each other but there's no focus
- medium : focus on someone's personal issue from outside group
- high (pure LE): a focus on people and issues within the group

4. Define "group boundaries" and list 5 factors that contribute to a stable boundary for process groups. (6 pts)

- the infrastructure that holds the group together and helps it work properly
- a closed group (stable membership)
- an optimal size of 6-10
- frequency of meeting
- constancy in time and place of meetings (attendance & punctuality)
- confidentiality

5. What does it mean to say that the process group is a social microcosm? (2 pts)

- the group is a mini-version of your social world
- the group reflects your family of origin

6. List and briefly explain the 5 stages of group development. (10 pts)

- forming and norming
people feel anxious while trying to figure out how the group works
- conforming
a harmony and affection stage in which conflict is avoided
- storming
a conflict stage often involving arguments about "oughts" & "shoulds"
- performing
a mature/fully functioning group that knows how to deal with conflict and accepts how people are different
- adjourning
the termination stage in which we review the group's issues and say goodbye

7. What does participant-observation research involve? (2 pts)

- a non-statistical, objective observation and analysis of a social phenomenon
- an analysis of one's subjective experience and behavior as a participant in the social phenomenon

8. What does "comparing social realities" mean in participant-observation research? (1pt)

- comparing your subjective experience to other people's subjective experience

9. How does one use "converging evidence" in participant-observation? (1pt)

- comparing evidence from different group events to develop and modify hypotheses