

## Chapter 2: Theoretical Explanations of Violence

### 2.1 Introduction to Theoretical Explanations of Violence

1. Current frameworks for understanding the causes of intimate personal violence are considered adequate by professionals in the field if:

- a. Singular causes are isolated
- b. They simplify the complicated issue
- c. Victims are held accountable
- d. The explanations are multifaceted
- e. They highlight an individual's choice to be violent

Answer: D      Page: 47      Skill: Analytical      Difficulty: Moderate      Module: 2.1

2. In its explanation of intimate personal violence, the ecological model highlights:

- a. Individual factors
- b. Family dynamics
- c. Neighbourhood conditions
- d. Cultural beliefs and social norms
- e. The complex interconnections of all the above

Answer: E      Page: 47      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Moderate      Module: 2.1

3. In 1962, the first academic publication to focus on the issue of intimate personal violence was titled:

- a. The Battered Child Syndrome
- b. The Battered Wife Syndrome
- c. Domestic Violence Unearthed
- d. When Love Hurts
- e. Silent Scream

Answer: A      Page: 47      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Easy      Module: 2.1

4. At the micro-level, proponents of the ecological model emphasize that:

- a. Biology is destiny
- b. Violence and aggression are natural urges
- c. A child is solely a product of the family environment
- d. Multiple, simultaneous influences impact individual development
- e. Encounters with teachers and peers often "undo" the work of parents in the home

Answer: D      Page: 48      Skill: Analytical      Difficulty: Challenging      Module: 2.1

5. Which level of the ecological model best describes “the big picture”?
- The dynamic level
  - The micro level
  - The mezzo level
  - The macro level
  - The socio-cultural level

Answer: D      Page: 50      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Easy      Module: 2.1

**Short Answer question: As presented in the chapter, why is a multi-systems model advantageous, and preferred over a singular-causal model in studying and explaining intimate personal violence?**

Answers will vary and may include the following:

- ✓ It helps to organize the numerous insights, explanations, and perspectives articulated over the last 40-50 years
- ✓ The issue of interpersonal violence is complicated and multifaceted; simple explanations are therefore inadequate
- ✓ Simplistic explanations risk the continuation of victim-blaming
- ✓ Singular-causal explanations are counter-productive to addressing the issue and implementing effective policy and practice
- ✓ Understanding why “the choice to be violent survives over four decades of progressive collective work, knowledge and laws” is challenging and requires a multi-factorial analysis

Pages: 47-50      Skill: application      Difficulty: Average      Module: 2.1

## 2.2 The Macro Level and Violence: The Big Picture

1. Oppression:
- Is sometimes accidental
  - Occurs any time our choices are restricted
  - Exists when freedom is restricted on the basis of individual failure
  - Has historically been condemned by legislation and policy in Canada
  - Is perpetrated systematically by the dominant group to ensure its superiority and privilege

Answer: E      Page: 51      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Easy      Module: 2.2

2. According to academic expert Bob Mullaly, oppressors view the oppressed as:
- A group that must be controlled for the good of society
  - Rebel forces who pose a threat to social order
  - Overly entitled and needy

- d. Mentally Ill
- e. Savages

Answer: A      Page: 51      Skill: Analytical      Difficulty: Moderate      Module: 2.2

3. Which type of oppression excludes entire groups of people from meaningful participation in society?

- a. Cultural Imperialism
- b. Exploitation
- c. Marginalization
- d. Powerlessness
- e. Violence

Answer: C      Page: 52      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Easy      Module: 2.2

4. Which type of oppression are you experiencing if, by virtue of being female, your choices and freedom are restricted due to your constant fear of sexual harassment and attack?

- a. Cultural Imperialism
- b. Exploitation
- c. Marginalization
- d. Powerlessness
- e. Violence

Answer: E      Page: 52      Skill: Analytical      Difficulty: Moderate      Module: 2.2

5. In June 2010, Aqsa Parvez was killed by her father and brother 'in the name of honour' because:

- a. She was sexually promiscuous
- b. She wanted to marry a man of her own choosing
- c. She refused to have an abortion
- d. She did not want to wear traditional Muslim clothing
- e. She wanted to attend university

Answer: D      Page: 56      Skill: Definition      Difficulty: Easy      Module: 2.2

**Short answer question: Define the term patriarchal violence and discuss present day manifestations of such violence.**

Answers will vary and may include the following points:

- ✓ Patriarchal violence refers to behaviours, beliefs, and actions, driven by a logic of male superiority and female inferiority, that result in the perpetuation of women's oppression
- ✓ Patriarchal violence was exemplified in 2011 when a Toronto police officer suggested that women ought to stop dressing like 'sluts' if they did not want to be raped

- ✓ The honour killing of Aqsa Parvez and murder of Rumana Monzure by her jealous husband are also instances of modern-day patriarchal violence
- ✓ Under-representation of women in positions of power across the spectrum in Religion, Economy, and Politics

Pages: 53-57 Skill: comprehension Difficulty: Difficult Module: 2.2

### 2.3 The Mezzo Level – Intergenerational Violence: They Cycle of Violence Hypothesis

1. According to research findings, which of the following is true about children who grow up in an abusive and violent home?

- a. They become predisposed to violence at school, home, and work
- b. They become abusive to their children and spouses
- c. They become victims of abuse by their children and spouses
- d. They have difficulty maintaining long-term relationships and often remain childless
- e. The research findings are mixed; while the above scenarios play out for some children, many others grow up to have functional, non-violent, and even healthy relationships

Answer: E Page: 58 Skill: Analytical Difficulty: Moderate Module: 2.3

2. Remi's father gets what he wants when he is violent. As a result, Remi has learned that violence works! In terms of operant conditioning theory, the violence is learned because it was:

- a. Powerful
- b. Positively reinforced
- c. Modeled by a primary caregiver
- d. Paired with a conditioned response
- e. Paired with an unconditioned response

Answer: B Page: 61 Skill: Conceptual Difficulty: Moderate Module: 2.3

3. Which of the following most accurately reflects the current knowledge regarding the idea that "violence begets violence" as well as the adage "the apple does not fall far from the tree"?

- a. Experiencing violence in childhood automatically causes violence in adulthood
- b. Childhood victimization actually decreases the likelihood of future violent perpetration
- c. While the probability of intimate personal violence is higher for those who experienced violence as children, the majority of such children are not violent in adulthood
- d. Violence in childhood invariably leads to both violent victimization *and* perpetration in adulthood
- e. Violence in the home carries on intergenerationally only when it is positively reinforced by the society at large.

Answer: C Page: 62 Skill: Analytical Difficulty: Challenging Module: 2.3

4. Under the principles of operant conditioning, we would expect that arresting perpetrators of violence (a positive punishment) to:

- a. Decrease future perpetration of violence
- b. Increase future perpetration of violence
- c. Negatively reinforce the perpetration of violence
- d. Positively reinforce the perpetration of violence
- e. Have no effect, whatsoever

Answer: A      Page: 62      Skill: Analytical      Difficulty: Moderate      Module: 2.3

5. Bandura helps explain why not all children exposed to violence become violent themselves by highlighting that:

- a. We have the capacity to think about what we see and endure, and choose to act accordingly
- b. We tend to bury trauma and negative emotions in the “unconscious”, thereby minimizing their impact on future actions and relationships
- c. What was positively reinforced in our childhood may not be reinforced in adulthood
- d. Being victimized in childhood counter-intuitively teaches children how NOT to be when they grow up
- e. Children exposed to violence tend to compensate by being overly indulgent and caring in adulthood

Answer: A      Page: 63      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Challenging      Module: 2.3

**Short Answer question: How can cognitive theory be applied toward ending patriarchal violence against women?**

Answers will vary and may include the following points:

- ✓ Acknowledging that it is a choice to be violent
- ✓ Changing attitudes (such as male entitlement) and thought patterns (blaming the victim, she instigated it) associated with the perpetration of violence
- ✓ Address the false belief systems of patriarchy that encourage men to become outraged at women, for instance, the belief that women are cunning and sexual, which leads to jealousy, outrage, and ultimately violence.

Pages: 63-64      Skill: application      Difficulty: Average      Module: 2.3

#### 2.4 Micro-Level Theories that Emphasize the Individual

1. At the micro level, violence is viewed as resulting from:

- a. Personal inadequacies
- b. Parenting inadequacies
- c. Self-control issues

- d. Psychological and biological abnormalities
- e. All of the above

Answer: E      Page: 64      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Easy      Module: 2.4

2. Research on *relationship factors* of abusive families note which of the following as a risk factors for violence?

- a. Sibling rivalry
- b. Social isolation
- c. Financial hardship
- d. Tension with in-laws
- e. Lack of religious affiliation

Answer: B      Page: 65      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Moderate      Module: 2.4

3. In terms of the relationship between alcohol abuse and intimate personal violence, current knowledge holds that:

- a. Intimate personal violence causes alcoholism
- b. Alcohol consumption causes intimate personal violence
- c. Alcohol disinhibits and releases violent tendencies within an individual
- d. Alcoholics have anger management issues which leads to violent tendencies
- e. Alcohol consumption dampens the stress response and actually inhibits violence

Answer: C      Page: 65      Skill: Analytical      Difficulty: Challenging      Module: 2.4

4. According to the Duluth Model, batterers use violence because they:

- a. have a need to control and dominate
- b. have a low self-esteem and weak ego
- c. lack empathy and are insensitive to others' needs
- d. cannot effectively regulate their mood swings and intense emotions
- e. are excessively jealous and frantically afraid of being left alone or abandoned

Answer: A      Page: 67      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Moderate      Module: 2.4

5. The old maxim "you are what you eat":

- a. has been dismissed and discredited by today's science
- b. helps explain, at least in part, some instances of violent behavior
- c. has been extensively used by defense lawyers to acquit batterers who are diabetic
- d. is today accepted as gospel truth, thanks to research advancements made in the field biocriminology
- e. has influenced the initiation of "nutritional therapy" in the treatment and rehabilitation of batterers

Answer: B      Page: 75      Skill: Conceptual      Difficulty: Moderate      Module: 2.4

**Short answer question: Calra Van Dam argues that we must be willing “to consider the possibility that known and trusted adults sexually molest children” in order to prevent these tragedies from occurring. In the context of what you have read in this chapter, why is this the first of her five key prevention strategies?**

Answers will vary and may include the following points:

- ✓ As a society, we are often silent about this issue and often deny the extent to which it occurs
- ✓ We tend to imagine that child molesters are sick or twisted individuals; in reality they are indistinguishable from the non-molesters in terms of demographic characteristics
- ✓ Molestation is a deep, dark familiar secret
- ✓ We have “for centuries been betrayed and tricked by sexual predators” (p. 70) that we “know and trust”

Pages: 70, 73-74

Skill: comprehension

Difficulty: Difficult

Module: 2.4

## 2.5 Victim Theories

1. Lenore Walker coined which of the following terms?

- a. Battered woman syndrome
- b. Munchausen syndrome
- c. Learned helplessness
- d. Defensive violence
- e. Survivor

Answer: A

Page: 76

Skill: Definition

Difficulty: Easy

Module: 2.5

2. Battered women’s syndrome is most closely associated with:

- a. Post-traumatic stress disorder
- b. Munchausen syndrome
- c. Borderline personality disorder
- d. Depression
- e. Anxiety

Answer: A

Page: 76

Skill: Conceptual

Difficulty: Moderate

Module: 2.5

3. Which condition is used to explain a victim’s inability to protect herself against her abuser after repeated, failed attempts?

- a. Battered woman’s syndrome
- b. Learned helplessness
- c. Dampened fight-flight response
- d. Vicarious trauma

- e. Irrational choice theory

Answer: B Page: 77 Skill: Definition Difficulty: Easy Module: 2.5

4. In helping to answer the victim-blaming question, “why doesn’t she just leave?” Lenore Walker applied the theory of learned helplessness to hypothesize that that continual exposure to battering would, over time:

- a. Condition a woman to “fight back”
- b. Exhaust the woman’s energy to leave
- c. Diminish a woman’s motivation to react to the violence
- d. Persuade the woman that the violence is “not that bad”
- e. Convince neighbours, friends, and family that she actually liked the violence

Answer: C Page: 77 Skill: Conceptual Difficulty: Moderate Module: 2.5

5. How many phases compose Lenore Walker’s cycle of violence?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4
- e. 5

Answer: C Page: 78 Skill: Conceptual Difficulty: Easy Module: 2.5

**Short answer question: Summarize Lenore Walker’s cycle of violence and explain how the cycle contributes to learned helplessness.**

Answers will vary and may include the following points:

- ✓ The tension building phase reinforces for her that she is powerless and incapable of avoiding “what’s coming to her”; she has learned that her actions are ineffective
- ✓ The respite phase gives her hope, and, over time, with repetitions of the cycle, causes her to lose trust in her own judgment, it is crazy-making
- ✓ The acute phase is very traumatizing. The repeated trauma, coupled with the knowledge that if she resists or tries to leave she is at greater risk of harm, eventually numbs her motivation to try and her believe in her ability to escape.

Pages: 77-78 Skill: comprehension Difficulty: Average Module: 2.5