Chapter 1: Growing Old in Today’s World

1. Cohort effects refer to:

a. The number of friends and coworkers an older adult has

b. Camaraderie among younger and older family members

c. Shared experiences of a particular generation of older adults

d. Number of peer-to-peer interactions using a sociogram

ANS: C

2. Which of the following is NOT an explanation for increased longevity in modern times?

a. Improved medical care

b. Reduced infant mortality

c. Fewer infectious disease mortalities

d. Greater social acceptance of older adults

ANS: D

3. Which of the following individuals has the longest life expectancy?

a. A white female in the United States

b. A black male in Canada

c. An individual in South America, regardless of gender or ethnicity

d. A Hispanic female in a large U.S. city

ANS: A

4. Which of the following would be considered an environmental determinant of health and longevity?

a. Public policy emphasizing availability of public pensions

b. Levels of asbestos in homes and apartments in a neighborhood

c. An individual’s level of educational achievement

d. Attitudes toward older adults in a given society

ANS: B

5. According to the World Health Organization, which country or countries are experiencing the most rapid proportional increase in older population?

a. Developed Asian countries like Japan

b. The United States

c. High-income countries

d. Low- and middle-income countries

ANS: D

6. Which of the following is the most accurate statement about retirement as a phenomenon of later life?

a. This is a relatively new expectation, dating to the mid-20th century.

b. Retirement has existed for as long as societies have identified a group of individuals as aged.

c. For the most part, retirement is expected only among individuals in developing nations.

d. Women expect to retire, but most men believe they will work for as long as possible.

ANS: A

7. Attitudes toward aging are most likely to be positive in societies where:

a. Older adults constitute a large proportion of the society.

b. Activities of elders emphasize primarily leisure and enjoyment.

c. There are very few older adults.

d. Older adults have a specific role as wise elders.

ANS: D

8. Age 65 has come to be considered the onset of old age in the United States because:

a. This is when most older adults find their abilities diminishing.

b. At age 65, physical appearance makes it evident that a person is old.

c. This is the age initially identified in public policy such as Social Security and Medicare.

d. This is the age at which life expectancy diminishes most rapidly.

ANS: C

9. A criticism of Rowe and Kahn’s (1998) factors for successful aging is that:

a. Individuals have no control over any of the factors identified.

b. It is possible to have disease and disability and still have a positive late-life experience.

c. Few people age successfully, so the construct is not helpful.

d. It is not possible to accurately identify factors that contribute to a good experience of late life.

ANS: B

10. The concept of dependency ratios has been criticized because:

a. Individual differences in needs and in aging and activity make it difficult to ascertain which generation depends on others for help.

b. Very few older adults ever rely on younger individuals for support and assistance.

c. The most dependent generation may well be young adults.

d. It is common knowledge that older adults are dependent on younger individuals.

ANS: A