Discussion Questions

# Chapter 14: Personality Disorders

1. Comorbidity is a common issue among people suffering from personality disorders. How might this affect the diagnosis and treatment of such disorders? Indicate a few types of illnesses that tend to be comorbid with personality disorders.

2. A client diagnosed with schizophrenia enters your office for treatment. He mentions how he has the ability to make events happen by simply thinking about them. However, he seems to be in touch with reality and produces relatively coherent speech. What might be a more accurate diagnosis? What criteria led you to this decision?

3. Imagine you hear a news report in which the suspect of a crime is referred to as a psychopath. Later, the reporter discloses that he is diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder. What is potentially flawed about this news segment?

4. Compare and contrast the cluster A, B, and C personality disorders. Of the different types of PD, which diagnosis (diagnoses) would be most concerning in regards to self-harm or suicide risk? Explain your response.

5. Consider circumstances where you are contemplating a personality disorder diagnosis for a client. In what ways would the client’s personality charistitics, traits, and qualities lead you to conclude that the client has challenging though relatively normal personality qualities. What symptoms, severity and circumstance would lead you to making a personality disorder diagnosis?