

**A 40 QUESTION MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST IN
GENERAL SEMANTICS***

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1. Meaning is in:
 - a. words
 - b. people
 - c. situations
 - d. school

2. A baseball umpire who has studied general-semantics would probably say:
 - a. I call 'em as I see 'em
 - b. I call 'em as they are
 - c. until I call 'em they ain't
 - d. the umpire is always right

3. All these are examples of pre-scientific systems of meaning except:
 - a. primitivism
 - b. absolutism
 - c. magic
 - d. multiordinality

4. The structural differential refers to:
 - a. order of abstraction
 - b. time-binding
 - c. engineering
 - d. linguistics

5. The self-reflexive aspect of language means:
 - a. the clever use of language
 - b. the dictionary as the absolute arbiter of meaning
 - c. the limitations of words being used to explain other words
 - d. the uselessness of language

6. All these are examples of extensional devices except:
 - a. etc.
 - b. stereotyping
 - c. indexing
 - d. dating

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7. The word "general" in general-semantics refers to:
 - a. not being limited only to language
 - b. including all the languages of the world
 - c. including all semantic theories
 - d. being the most useful semantic theory

8. Time-binding is defined as:
 - a. a general theory of history
 - b. an analysis of how man structures his time
 - c. man's rush to accomplish things
 - d. man's ability to pass on knowledge to future generations

9. Korzybski regarded general-semantics as a(n):
 - a. educational discipline
 - b. engineering discipline
 - c. linguistic discipline
 - d. religion

10. A major difficulty with the Aristotelian approach to language is:
 - a. its poor grammar
 - b. its weak lexicography
 - c. its two-valued orientation
 - d. its Greek translation

11. The principle of non-identity postulates that:
 - a. no two objects are exactly identical
 - b. people do not have identities
 - c. it is better for people to not develop identities
 - d. there is no such thing as identity

12. The pioneer work in general-semantics is:
 - a. *Language in Thought and Action*
 - b. *Language Habits in Human Affairs*
 - c. *Science and Sanity*
 - d. *The Use and Misuse of Language*

13. Whenever we abstract we:
 - a. communicate more completely
 - b. leave characteristics out
 - c. increase human knowledge
 - d. violate semantic theory

14. The following are all semantic assumptions underlying the scientific method of the twentieth century except:
 - a. the map is not the territory
 - b. a fact is a rapidly aging event
 - c. the map equals the territory
 - d. the universe "is" a verb

15. The following are all principles of perception except:
 - a. we tend to see all that is in our environment
 - b. we tend to see what we expect to see
 - c. we tend to see what suits our purposes at the time
 - d. we tend to see what our background has prepared us to see

16. Elementalism is:
 - a. starting with the simple premises first
 - b. describing only obvious characteristics
 - c. our tendency to let words make us think of things in isolation
 - d. the building block of general-semantics

17. Korzybski believed most people were:
 - a. insane
 - b. insane
 - c. sane
 - d. hopelessly confused

18. The closest level on the structural differential to process reality would be:
 - a. the abstract level
 - b. the descriptive level
 - c. the atomic level
 - d. the object level

19. The purpose of the structural differential is to:
 - a. explain engineering terms in lay language
 - b. show that there is a true reality
 - c. exemplify the meaninglessness of language
 - d. help people understand the relationships among levels of abstraction

20. A person's semantic reaction is:
 - a. one's complete reaction as a complicated human being
 - b. one's verbal reaction on different levels
 - c. one's ability to classify his language
 - d. one's ability to understand general-semantics

21. An example of how words use us is:
 - a. thinking happiness is an operational definition
 - b. doing arithmetic
 - c. asking for directions
 - d. describing an experiment

22. General semantics has been shown to be effective in all these areas except:
 - a. increasing critical thinking
 - b. increasing creativity
 - c. stopping wars
 - d. decreasing prejudice

23. General semantics is most based on the principles of:
 - a. engineering
 - b. education
 - c. science
 - d. linguistics

24. General semantics postulates that:
 - a. language should bear close correspondence to “reality”
 - b. language can never approximate “reality”
 - c. it is futile to describe “reality”
 - d. there is no “reality”

25. The “natural” order of abstracting involves:
 - a. non-verbal experiences to descriptions to inferences
 - b. opinions should precede facts
 - c. a chaotic view of evaluation
 - d. something beyond human capacity

26. According to Korzybski, general-semantics can be learned:
 - a. only by college students
 - b. only by those who first study linguistics
 - c. quite easily by children
 - d. only by those who have read *Science and Sanity*

27. Examples of intensional thinking are most likely found in:
 - a. novels
 - b. physics texts
 - c. subpoenas
 - d. arithmetic books

28. “Projection” refers to the way:
 - a. we use semantics to understand “reality”
 - b. certain objects project universal characteristics
 - c. we transfer our own feelings and evaluation to objects outside of us
 - d. certain objects are universally defined

29. Twentieth century science deals mainly with:
 - a. circular reasoning
 - b. the universe as a noun
 - c. operational definitions
 - d. universal absolutes

30. Korzybski wrote about the concept of “logical fate” which means:
 - a. particular consequences flow from particular assumptions
 - b. the universe is a logical place
 - c. fate is a rational enterprise
 - d. everything can be discovered

31. *E-prime* is a way to:
 - a. eliminate uses of the verb "to be"
 - b. study words that contain the letter "e"
 - c. analyze prime numbers
 - d. remember the slogan - "E for Effort"

32. *IFD* disease refers to:
 - a. idealization, leading to frustration, to demoralization
 - b. a biological virus
 - c. an extensional outlook
 - d. a chronic condition that can't be remedied

33. The use of the word "etc." from a general-semantics viewpoint is an example of:
 - a. sloppy English
 - b. the futility of language
 - c. lazy thinking
 - d. non-allness

34. The formulation that terms can be assigned different meanings depending on level of abstraction is known as:
 - a. paradoxical intention
 - b. undefined terms
 - c. organism as a whole in environments
 - d. multiordinality

35. Two-valued maps are:
 - a. multiordinal
 - b. Non-Aristotelian
 - c. useful at times
 - d. useless

36. Symbol reactions are:
 - a. automatic
 - b. undifferentiating
 - c. impulsive
 - d. delayed

37. Which is not a general-semantics term:
 - a. structure
 - b. law of the excluded middle
 - c. order
 - d. relations

38. An example of a “useless” question is:
 a. Why are people so unkind?
 b. Where can I learn to swim?
 c. Why didn't you wait for me?
 d. What would you like to do today?
39. Terms that are described mostly by intension without reference to facts are known as:
 a. indexed
 b. dated
 c. over/under defined
 d. variables
40. General Semanticists believe that:
 a. similarities are more important than differences
 b. language is not important
 c. the word “all” should never be used
 d. human evaluating involves uncertainty

General Semantics Test Answer Key

10. c	20. a	30. a	40. d
9. a	19. d	29. c	39. c
8. d	18. c	28. c	38. a
7. a	17. a	27. a	37. b
6. b	16. c	26. c	36. d
5. c	15. a	25. a	35. c
4. a	14. c	24. a	34. d
3. d	13. b	23. c	33. d
2. c	12. c	22. c	32. a
1. b	11. a	21. a	31. a