Biosemiotics and Bodily Signs

Biosemiotics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. In clinical semiotics, what is the technical term for a subjective experience reported by a patient that cannot be objectively observed by a clinician?

A) Sign
B) Symptom
C) Index
D) Icon

2. Which biological process is interpreted as a 'semiotic' exchange involving the transmission of chemical signals between cells to coordinate a systemic physiological response?

A) Apoptosis
B) Cell signaling
C) Homeostasis
D) Mitosis

3. According to the semiotic classification of diagnostic indicators, a 'pathognomonic sign' is defined as:

A) A sign that occurs in multiple diseases
B) A sign whose presence specifically indicates a particular disease
C) A subjective feeling of pain
D) An icon representing the patient's history

4. Within the field of biosemiotics, what does the 'genetic code' represent in terms of Peircean semiotics?

A) A symbolic system mapping nucleotides to amino acids
B) An indexical trace of protein evolution
C) An iconic representation of DNA structure
D) A rheme of biological data

5. What is the semiotic role of 'C-reactive protein' (CRP) when measured in a patient's blood serum during an inflammatory response?

A) An iconic model of infection
B) A symbolic representation of viral load
C) An indexical sign of systemic inflammation
D) A conventional symptom of chronic illness

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6. In the study of 'somatic semiotics', what type of sign is a fever, given that it is a physical effect directly caused by the underlying biological state?

A) Icon
B) Symbol
C) Index
D) Diagram

7. The study of how organisms interpret environmental stimuli to maintain biological integrity is known as:

A) Cytosemiotics
B) Zoosemiotics
C) Biosemiotics
D) Neurosemiotics

8. In the semiotic analysis of medical imaging (such as X-rays or MRIs), the captured image functions primarily as which type of sign?

A) Indexical index
B) Iconic representation
C) Symbolic code
D) Arbitrary signifier

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