

Psychology (0390)

Test at a Glance

Test Name	Psychology		
Test Code	0390		
Time	2 hours		
Number of Questions	120		
Format	Multiple-choice questions		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
	I. Human Growth and Development	24	20%
	II. Social Psychology, Personality, and Abnormal Psychology	24	20%
	III. Research Methodology and Statistics	18	15%
	IV. Learning, Motivation, and Emotion	24	20%
	V. Physiological Psychology, Cognition, and Sensation and Perception	30	25%

About This Test

The Psychology test is designed to assess the knowledge and abilities of examinees seeking to teach psychology in secondary schools.

The 120 multiple-choice questions assess basic knowledge and the application of psychological principles to complex situations. Approximately 70 percent of the questions involve knowledge and comprehension; the other 30 percent of the questions involve application of principles. This test may contain some questions that will not count toward your score.

The test content includes the areas of human growth and development; social psychology, personality, and abnormal psychology; research methodology and statistics; learning, motivation, and emotion; and physiological psychology, cognition, and sensation and perception.

Topics Covered

Representative descriptions of topics covered in each category are provided below.

I. Human Growth and Development

- Language development during infancy and early childhood
- Physical and motor development during infancy, childhood, and adolescence
- Personality development during infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood
- Cognitive development: Jean Piaget and recent research
- Emotional development in infants, children, and adolescents
- Social development through the full life span, including play behavior
- Aging, death, and dying
- Genetic determinants of behavior: intelligence and behavioral predisposition
- Intellectual development: the IQ testing controversy, exceptionalism and normal intellectual development
- Prenatal development and birth: physical development, sensory development, nutrition, styles of childbirth practices, and anatomical considerations in the childbirth process

II. Social Psychology, Personality, and Abnormal Psychology

- Major theories: psychoanalytic, cognitive, behaviorist, and humanistic
- Defense mechanisms: projection, rationalization, displacement, and denial
- Types and characteristics of disorders: anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, affective disorders, schizophrenia, personality disorders, and substance abuse disorders
- Major techniques of therapy: behaviorist, psychoanalytic, humanistic, and cognitive
- Issues included in defining normality versus abnormality
- Stress: stress management
- Social determinants of behavior: attitude, group dynamics, and conformity

III. Research Methodology and Statistics

- Methods of inquiry: asking questions, formulating hypotheses, using data, creating theories, drawing inferences, and defining independent versus dependent variables
- Data collection: experimentation, observation, interview, and case study
- Interpretation of data: graphs, charts, and figures
- The role of statistics in psychology: inferential statistics, correlation, cause and effect, the normal distribution, reliability, validity, and descriptive statistics

IV. Learning, Motivation, and Emotion

- Classical conditioning: application of classical conditioning, reinforcement, extinction, spontaneous recovery, generalization, and discrimination
- Operant conditioning: applications of operant conditioning, behavior modification, shaping, acquisition, extinction, generalization, discrimination, and punishment, as well as reinforcement topics
- States of consciousness: sleep, wakefulness, hypnosis, and drugged states
- Emotion: biological, psychological, and social theories of emotion

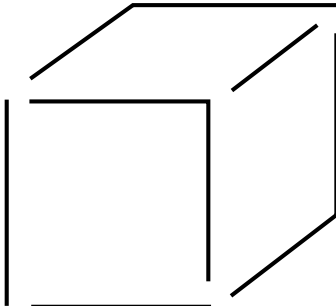
V. Physiological Psychology, Cognition, and Sensation and Perception

- Physiological determinants of behavior: the endocrine system and the brain and nervous system
- Perception: perceptual phenomena, Gestalt, and the role of expectations
- Sensory processes: vision, audition, and the other senses
- Thought processes: insight, imagery, creativity, problem solving, and concept formation
- Information processing: attentional processes, such as pattern recognition and selective attention; techniques for the measurement of memory; principles and processes of both short-term and long-term memory; and transfer of learning

Sample Test Questions

The sample questions that follow illustrate the kinds of questions in the test. They are not, however, representative of the entire scope of the test in either content or difficulty. Answers with explanations follow the questions.

Directions: Each of the questions or statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

- Which of the following lists Jean Piaget's stages of cognitive development in the correct sequence?
 - Concrete operational, sensorimotor, preoperational, formal operational
 - Preoperational, formal operational, concrete operational, sensorimotor
 - Preoperational, sensorimotor, formal operational, concrete operational
 - Sensorimotor, preoperational, concrete operational, formal operational
- A psychologist using which of the following psychotherapeutic approaches is most likely to use systematic desensitization techniques?
 - Behavioral
 - Gestalt
 - Psychoanalytic
 - Rational-emotive
- Which of the following theorists proposed that humans are motivated by a hierarchy of needs, the highest of which is a need for self-actualization?
 - Abraham Maslow
 - Carl Jung
 - Sigmund Freud
 - Walter Mischel
- In an investigation of the relationship between variables X and Y , which of the following would most likely be the null hypothesis?
 - There is a positive relationship between X and Y .
 - There is a negative relationship between X and Y .
 - There is no relationship between X and Y .
 - The values of both X and Y are determined by the value of a third variable, Z .
- Sandra scored 60 on a test. The test scores were normally distributed, with a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 10. Which of the following percentile ranges would contain Sandra's score?
 - 35–49
 - 50–64
 - 65–79
 - 80–95
- 

Which of the following schools of psychology has been most interested in explaining why the figure above is perceived as a cube?

 - Psychoanalysis
 - Behaviorism
 - Gestalt
 - Functionalism

7. Which of the following terms is a psychologist most likely to use to refer to the categories that people use to classify events, objects, or individuals?
- (A) Images
 - (B) Concepts
 - (C) Scripts
 - (D) Metacognition
8. Electrical stimulation of which of the following parts of the nervous system in rats is most likely to elicit eating, drinking, or attack behavior?
- (A) Spinal cord
 - (B) Medulla
 - (C) Pons
 - (D) Hypothalamus
9. Which of the following is an example of Lawrence Kohlberg's conventional morality in an adolescent female?
- (A) She volunteers to work in a soup kitchen on weekends because she believes such behavior on her part would be approved of by her teachers.
 - (B) She volunteers to work in a soup kitchen on weekends because she believes all members of society are obliged to help others.
 - (C) She refuses to accompany her boyfriend to a party where alcohol will be served because of her fear of parental punishment for consuming alcohol.
 - (D) She refuses to accompany her boyfriend to a party where alcohol will be served because she disapproves of activities that might harm others.
10. Which of the following scenarios illustrates the just-world theory, which explains our responses to certain behaviors?
- (A) A doctor attributes her neighbors' bankruptcy to poor money management.
 - (B) A figure skater attributes her failure to win a tournament to a skate blade's loosening.
 - (C) An executive attributes her promotion to her supervisor's misjudgment.
 - (D) A mother blames the noise on the city street for keeping her son from being a famous author.
11. If a father wants his child to take out the trash more often, which of the following behavioral techniques would be most effective in increasing this behavior?
- (A) Negative reinforcement
 - (B) Habituation
 - (C) Punishment
 - (D) Extinction
12. Which of the following utterances by a psychotherapist to an anxious client would be most typical of a cognitive therapeutic approach?
- (A) "You say you feel you are very nervous."
 - (B) "Can you list or identify how you might be benefiting from your anxiety?"
 - (C) "What might be the irrational thoughts that are producing your anxiety?"
 - (D) "Do you feel your parents met your childhood emotional needs adequately?"
13. Which of the following structures is correctly matched with its location in the brain?
- (A) Frontal lobe . . . somatosensory cortex
 - (B) Parietal lobe . . . primary motor cortex
 - (C) Temporal lobe . . . Wernicke's area
 - (D) Occipital lobe . . . Broca's area
14. Jake is a chronic liar, seems incapable of forming attachments to others, and does not experience any guilt for breaking laws or violating the rights of other people. According to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV-TR* (DSM-IV-TR), Jake most likely has
- (A) bipolar disorder
 - (B) antisocial personality disorder
 - (C) dissociative identity disorder
 - (D) a schizophrenic disorder

15. Barbara is attending a lecture entitled “Conditions of Worth as Impediments to the Development of Self-Regard.” It is most likely that the individual giving the lecture takes which of the following approaches to the study of personality?
- (A) Humanistic
 - (B) Behavioral
 - (C) Psychodynamic
 - (D) Sociocultural
16. I label the beating of my heart as fear because I evaluate the situation as dangerous. Which of the following is a theory of emotion that corresponds best to the statement above?
- (A) James-Lange
 - (B) Schacter’s two-factor
 - (C) Opponent-process
 - (D) Cannon-Bard
17. Dogs can be trained to stay within a specific area of a yard by placing a collar on them that signals a tone twelve inches from where a shock will be delivered. After a few trials, the dog will not go beyond the area where the tone signals, thus avoiding the shock. What is the unconditioned stimulus in this example?
- (A) The tone
 - (B) The shock
 - (C) Fear of the shock
 - (D) Fear of the tone
18. Following an automobile accident that caused damage to the hippocampus, which of the following deficits is most likely to be present in the person who sustained the injury?
- (A) An inability to learn the doctor’s name
 - (B) Failure to recognize the faces of family members
 - (C) Loss of speech and hearing
 - (D) Loss of touch sensation on one side of the body

Answers

1. The correct answer is D. According to Piaget, the sequence of stages is invariant.
2. The correct answer is A. Systematic desensitization was first developed by Wolpe. It is a behavioral therapy, as opposed to Gestalt, psychoanalytic, and rational-emotive therapies.
3. The correct answer is A. Maslow was a humanistic theorist who believed that certain basic needs must be fulfilled before higher needs, such as esteem, become dominant. Jung and Freud were psychoanalytic theorists, and Mischel believed that the situation is a stronger determinant of behavior than are personality traits.
4. The correct answer is C. The null hypothesis is the hypothesis being tested. In this case, the degree of relationship is tested against the hypothesis that there is no relationship.
5. The correct answer is D. Sandra's standard score is $(60-50)/10$ or 1.0. For a normal distribution, 1.0 is 34 percentile points above the mean of 50. This would put Sandra at the 84th percentile.
6. The correct answer is C. Wertheimer, among others, elaborated some of the principles of perception of Gestalt psychology. Closure, one of these principles, describes the tendency to complete figures that have gaps in them.
7. The correct answer is B. "Concepts" is a term used to describe the classes or categories that people use for events, objects, individuals, or the relations between them. Images (choice A), scripts (choice C), and metacognition (choice D) are not terms that refer to classification.
8. The correct answer is D. Electrical stimulation to the hypothalamus of rats has induced killing behavior (toward mice). Studies of the hypothalamus have found that electrical stimulation influences eating and drinking behavior as well. Electrical stimulation of the other structures has not produced the same reactions.
9. The correct answer is A. The girl's actions are motivated by approval of others. This is conventional moral judgment (stage 3). In choice B, the girl's judgment is motivated by the morality of social contract (stage 5). In choice C, the girl acts out of fear of punishment (stage 1). In choice D, the girl is risking the disapproval of at least her boyfriend, if not others, by consideration of higher principles (stage 6).
10. The correct answer is A. The just-world theory states that many people need to believe that there is fairness in the world such that good people are rewarded whereas bad people are punished. In the situation in A, someone is assumed to do something wrong and get punished for it. In the other situations there is neither a wrong act being punished nor a good act being rewarded.
11. The correct answer is A. In negative reinforcement, the probability of occurrence of a behavior is increased by the removal of an unpleasant stimulus. Habituation does not increase or decrease the frequency of a behavior. Punishment and extinction both decrease the frequency of a behavior.
12. The correct answer is C. A cognitive therapist helps the client change thoughts that contribute to maladaptive responses. The therapist does not focus on reflection of feelings, reinforcement of responses, or the deficiencies in previous relationships that might have contributed to the development of a problem.
13. The correct answer is C. This question requires matching the structures in the cerebral cortex with the correct brain function. All but the correct answer are incorrectly paired. The somatosensory cortex is in the parietal lobe. The motor cortex and Broca's area are in the frontal lobe.
14. The correct answer is B. Based on the DSM-IV-TR, the symptoms of chronic lies, lack of guilt, and chronic violations of others' rights are consistent with the diagnosis of antisocial personality disorder.
15. The correct answer is A. Conditions of worth and self regard are constructs described by Carl Rogers, a humanistic psychologist. Behavioral psychologists focus on environmental consequences and how they affect behavior. Psychodynamic psychologists focus on how inner conflicts affect behavior, and psychologists with a sociocultural perspective would be interested in how society or culture affects the individual.
16. The correct answer is B. According to Schachter's two-factor theory, the experience of emotion begins with physiological arousal and then moves to a cognitive appraisal of that arousal. In other words, once one experiences physical arousal, one looks to what is going on in the environment to evaluate the meaning of the arousal. This cognitive evaluation is key and makes it different from the other theories.
17. The correct answer is B. The shock is the unconditioned stimulus. Without training, it elicits the unconditioned response (fear of the shock). The tone is the conditioned stimulus. The fear of the tone is the conditioned response.
18. The correct answer is A. The hippocampus is involved in the storage of new information into memory. Option B might follow damage to the right parietal lobe, option C might follow damage to the left temporal and frontal lobes, and D might follow damage to the somatosensory cortex of either parietal lobe.



Listening. Learning. Leading.®

www.ets.org