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Multiple choice questions

Chapter 1: Theoretical perspectives in developmental psychology

1. Erik Erikson proposed that each stage of development involves a crisis. What is a crisis?
a. a turning point
b. a collapse
c. an emergency
d. a moment of truth
Correct: A
Reason: The crisis between one stage of development and the next is, according the Erik Erikson, a crucial moment or turning point, when development can either move forward or fail to do so.

2. Which of these scientific techniques for the study of children's development did Arnold Gesell introduce?
a. the one-way mirror
b. the questionnaire
c. observations in the home
d. clinical interviews
Correct: A
Reason: Arnold Gesell made detailed observations and films of children's behaviour in a special dome with one-way mirrors, so researchers could observe and not be seen.

3. What does a longitudinal design involve?
a. repeated measures of the same participants during a period of time

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b. measures comparing participants of different ages
c. repeated measures of participants of different genders
d. measures comparing participants of the same age
Correct: A
Reason: The major research designs in developmental psychology are longitudinal and cross-sectional design. Longitudinal design involves measuring or testing or observing the same children several times over a number of days, months, or even years,

4. When John Watson wrote “Damn Darwin!” what did his words imply?
a. he rejected evolutionary explanations of behaviour and development
b. he was in a bad mood
c. he was a Creationist
d. he was providing negative reinforcement
Correct: A
Reason: John Watson was a behaviourist. He believed that children’s behaviour is not the result of evolution, but of a pattern of learning in the current environment. (He may also have been in a bad mood when he wrote this!)

5. For Skinner, development is the result of:
a. a continuous process of shaping
b. maturation
c. recapitulation
d. sudden qualitative reorganization of behaviour
Correct: A
Reason: B. F. Skinner was a behaviourist. He believed that children’s behaviour is result of a pattern of learning in the current environment. He referred to this learning as the ‘shaping’ of behaviour.

6. What advice did Watson give to parents?

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a. Be warm and loving with your child.
b. Expect changes of behaviour with each stage of development.
c. Be objective, firm, and unsentimental.
d. Wait for your child to mature with age.
Correct: C
Reason: Watson believed that caregivers should behave towards their child just as a scientific psychologist does when using reward and punishment to shape the child's behaviour.

7. What kind of "conditioning" did Watson experiment with?
a. classical conditioning
b. operant conditioning
c. air conditioning
d. social conditioning
Correct: B
Reason: Operant conditioning is a learning procedure in which spontaneously produced behaviour (rather than reflexes) are shaped through reinforcement.

8. Vygotsky proposed a distinction between two kinds of psychological functions. He called them:
a. lower and higher
b. sensory-motor and operational
c. cultural and historical
d. thought and language
Correct: A
Reason: Vygotsky distinguished between psychological functions that are universal and biological, the "lower psychological functions," and the "higher psychological functions," which are a consequence of using cultural artifacts.

9. In general terms, what does a cognitive developmental psychologist try to reconstruct?

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a. a child's underlying competence
b. the child's performance
c. what the child actually does
d. what the child says about what they do
Correct: A
Reason: In the cognitive perspective the principal goal is to infer the competence that is believed to underly a particular behaviour, ability, or performance, often in a formal simulation.

10. Most of the children who have been studied by developmental researchers are WEIRD. In the acronym 'WEIRD' the letter E stands for:
a. eccentric
b. expensive
c. educated
d. ecological
Correct: C
Reason: The acronym WEIRD stands for Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic.

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Chapter 2: Evolution and human development

1. What is the central assumption of shared intentionality theory?

a. Evolution has played little role in human psychology.

b. Human collaboration involves a special cognitive ability called collective intentionality.

c. Human psychological functioning has adapted to live in the modern world.

d. Chimpanzees had the capacity to share intentions.

Correct: B

Reason: Shared intentionality theory proposes that humans evolved the ability to collaborate when they became able to create mental representations known as 'collective intentionality.'

2. What are the two kinds of shared intentionality?

a. joint intentionality and collective intentionality

b. shared intentionality and joint intentionality

c. collective intentionality and shared intentionality

d. collective intentionality and individual intentionality

Correct: A

Reason: There are two kinds of shared intentionality: joint intentionality and collective intentionality.

3. Which hominin used first Oldowan tools, then Acheulean tools?

a. Australopithecus

b. Homo habilis

c. Home ergaster

d. Neanderthals

Correct: C

Reason: Homo ergaster initially used the same tools as Australopithecus. However, after half a million years they developed new tools: the Acheulean toolkit.

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4. Which hominin had the biggest brains?

a. Homo habilis

b. Homo ergaster

c. Australopithecus

d. Homo sapiens

Correct: D

Reason: The brain of Homo sapiens was, and is, larger than that of these other three hominins.

5. What do we call the process in which an organism produces another organism that resembles it?

a. reproduction

b. selection

c. adaptation

d. evolution

Correct: A

Reason: No individual organism can live indefinitely. The solution to this problem is called reproduction: the process in which an organism produces another organism that resembles it.

6. In which kind of hominin did the responsibility for raising an infant fall completely on their mother?

a. Australopithecus

b. Homo ergaster

c. Homo Neandertalis

d. Homo sapiens

Correct: A

Reason: Australopithecus probably did not form pair bonds, and a mother would rise one infant at a time without assistance from others, like chimpanzees today.

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7. Pair bonding seems to have emerged with which hominin?

a. Australopithecus

b. Homo ergaster

c. Early Homo sapiens 300,000 years ago

d. Modern Homo sapiens

Correct: B

Reason: It is likely that the first hominin in which pair bonding occurred was Homo ergaster.

8. A mode of reproduction in which more than one offspring is cared for at the same time is known as:

a. parallel reproduction

b. serial reproduction

c. sexual reproduction

d. human reproduction

Correct: A

Reason: Parallel reproduction a mode of reproduction in which more than one offspring is cared for at the same time, usually an infant and a toddler or young child.

9. “X counts as Y in context C” is the structure that John Searle attributes to what?

a. an institutional fact

b. an institutional reality

c. deontology

d. ontology

Correct: A

Reason: An institutional fact has a structure that is captured by the formula “X counts as Y in context C.” For example, a man may count as a father in the context of the family.

10. The series of changes in its form that an organism undergoes over time is known as its:

a. life cycle

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b. development

c. growth

d. evolution

Correct: A

Reason: The life cycle is the series of changes in its form that an organism undergoes during the course of its life.

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