

UPSC Mains 2025 Aug 31, 2025 Psychology (Paper 1) Question Paper and Answer Key PDF

Q. No.	Question	Check Solution
Q1 (A)	Why did behaviourists avoid the topics of thought and knowledge? Discuss.	Check Solution
Q1 (B)	Highlight the major factors that influence the psychological well-being of youth in the Indian setting.	Check Solution
Q1 (C)	Do attribution processes explain success and failure behaviour in social context? Answer this in the light of Weiner's model of attribution.	Check Solution
Q1 (D)	Critically evaluate the role of facial-affect programme and display rules in the expression of emotions by citing relevant examples.	Check Solution
Q1 (E)	'IQ tests are too narrow in focus.' Evaluate the statement from the perspectives of Sternberg and Gardner's theories of intelligence.	Check Solution
Q2 (A)	'Personality is all in our genes.' Evaluate the statement in the context of different personality theories.	Check Solution
Q2 (B)	When psychologists label their perspective humanistic, what does this term mean to you? What is its relevance in the modern era?	Check Solution
Q2 (C)	In what ways is probability sampling appropriate in the conduct of psychological research? Illustrate your answer with different techniques of probability sampling.	Check Solution
Q3 (A)	Discuss the role of biological, cognitive and learning influences on gender identity and gender typing by focusing on relevant theories and research studies.	Check Solution
Q3 (B)	Are quasi-experimental designs more advantageous than experimental designs? Discuss in the light of various methodological considerations.	Check Solution
Q3 (C)	Bring out the contributions of Binet and Wechsler in the measurement of intelligence. In what ways are Wechsler's approach and procedures more effective than Binet's approach and procedures? Discuss with examples.	Check Solution
Q4 (A)	Describe social cognitive theory and its applications to solve large scale societal problems.	Check Solution
Q4 (B)	'Meditation alters consciousness.' Discuss this by explaining meditation and consciousness along with relevant research examples.	Check Solution
Q4 (C)	What is the Whorfian hypothesis of linguistic relativity? Evaluate with empirical evidences.	Check Solution
Q5 (A)	Do correlational studies contribute in understanding 'cause and effect' relationship in human behaviour? Discuss.	Check Solution
Q5 (B)	Explain how psychological and cultural factors affect perception.	Check Solution
Q5 (C)	Can amnesia patients recall emotional events? Explain your answer citing research evidence.	Check Solution
Q5 (D)	Discuss how the narrative approach to personality hinges on answering the question, 'Who am I?'.	Check Solution

Q5 (E)	Is jet-lag a genuine phenomena ? Explain it in the light of Circadian rhythms.	Check Solution
Q6 (A)	How would you justify the use of factor analysis in psychological research ? Answer with appropriate concepts and examples.	Check Solution
Q6 (B)	State the structure of language and explain its role in speech perception and comprehension.	Check Solution
Q6 (C)	What enables us to see the world in 3D despite our retinas capturing only 2D images? Explain.	Check Solution
Q7 (A)	Motivation is a complex process and cannot be explained by a single approach.' Evaluate the statement with the help of arousal, drive and expectancy theories by citing relevant examples.	Check Solution
Q7 (B)	Distinguish between deductive and inductive reasoning and throw light on stumbling blocks of reasoning.	Check Solution
Q7 (C)	Reward and punishment sometimes fail to effectively change behaviour. Explain with relevant examples.	Check Solution
Q8 (A)	Why do human beings form attitudes and prejudices? Discuss the role of psychosocial factors in bringing the change in them, in the present Indian socio-cultural context.	Check Solution
Q8 (B)	Give two examples of the use of the availability heuristic in everyday life - one example when it would be appropriate and another example when it might not be. Explain why your examples are illustrative of availability heuristic.	Check Solution
Q8 (C)	Describe some major strategies for memory retention and explain each one with relevant examples.	Check Solution