LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This exam covers topics such as biological development, perception, learning and memory, cognition and language.

The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

Form Codes: SU490, SV490, SY490, SZ490

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent: Lifespan Developmental Psychology
Level: Upper-level baccalaureate

Amount of Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Minimum Score: 400
Source: www.acenet.edu

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

I. The Study of Lifespan Development – 18%
- a. Models and Theories
- b. Research Methods
- c. Ethical Issues

II. Biological Development – 15%
- a. Genetic Factors (including counseling)
- b. Prenatal Development and Birth
- c. Physical Development (nutrition, health)
- d. Motor Development
- e. Sexual Development
- f. Neurological Development
- g. Sensory Development

III. Perception, Learning, and Memory – 15%
- a. Perceptual Development

b. Learning, conditioning, and modeling
c. Memory (over the entire life span)
d. Executive Functioning
e. Attention and Information Processing

IV. Cognition and Language – 20%

a. Cognitive-development Theory
b. Problem solving
c. Intelligence and intelligence testing
d. Language development and theories
e. Social Cognition

V. Social, Emotional, and Personality Development – 31%

a. Personality and Emotional development
b. Social behaviors and development
c. Singlehood, cohabitation, marriage and family
d. Extra familial Settings (e.g., day-care, school, nursing home, hospice, college)
e. Occupational development and retirement
f. Adjustment to life changes and stresses

VI. Late Adulthood

a. Aging Process (ie gerontology)
b. Dying and Death (eg Bereavement and Loss)

REFERENCES

Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these titles or textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference more than one textbook on the topics outlined in this fact sheet.

You should begin by checking textbook content against the content outline provided before selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

Sources for study material are suggested but not limited to the following:

1. John W. Santrock. Essentials of Life-Span Development. McGraw-Hill Higher Education. 7th Edition.
2. Feldman, R.S. (2024). Essentials of Understanding Psychology. McGraw-Hill Higher Education
3. Gray, Peter O; Bjorklund, David F. (2018). *Psychology*. Worth Publishers, 8th Ed.
4. Newman, Barbara M. and Newman, Philip R. (2018). *D*evelopment Through Life: A Psychosocial Approach. Cengage Learning, 13th Ed.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. The following are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam.

1. According to Erik Erikson, the first stage of psychosocial development deals primarily with the development of
    a. autonomy
    b. industry
    c. initiative
    d. trust

2. Which of the following neonatal reflexes is most closely related to feeding?
    a. Babinski
    b. Moro
    c. Palmer
    d. Rooting

3. A distinct advantage of a longitudinal research design is that it
    a. is economical for investigating behavioral consistencies across situations
    b. Enables the researcher to study the behavior of individuals over time
    c. Automatically controls for the selective dropout of experimental subjects
    d. Allows the researcher to gather data on a given cohort at one point in time

4. Which of the following theorists proposed that early language development is primarily the result of innate factors?
    a. B.F. Skinner
    b. Albert Bandura
    c. Jean Piaget
    d. Noam Chomsky

5. Research suggests that sex differences in behavior occur most consistently in which of the following areas?
    a. Verbal comprehension
    b. Aggression
    c. Emotionality
    d. Independence

6. According to David Elkind, egocentrism during adolescence is most likely to be manifested in which of the following ways?
    a. Creation of an imaginary audience
    b. Unwillingness to share with one's peers
    c. Cheating in highly competitive situations
    d. Attention-getting behavior

7. Jennifer is known to be a Level 1 in Kohlberg's stages of moral reasoning. She is most likely to believe that it is wrong to steal because the person who steals

a. gets punished
b. disobeys the law
c. lacks respect for others' rights
d. is seen as unpopular by most people

8. Which of the following is a correct generalization regarding the adolescent growth spurt?
    a. It starts between the ages of 15 and 18 years
    b. It is unaffected by nutritional factors
    c. It is prolonged among first-born children
    d. It occurs earlier in girls than in boys

Answers to sample questions:

1-D; 2-D; 3-B; 4-D; 5- B; 6-A; 7-A; 8-D