

CUET 2026 May 15 Shift 1 Psychology

Question Paper (Memory-Based) With Solutions PDF

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)

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General Instructions

- (i) The examination will be conducted in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode.
- (ii) Each question carries +5 marks for correct answer and -1 mark for wrong answer.
- (iii) The total number of questions are 50.
- (iv) Duration of the exam is 1 hour (60 minutes).

1. Who proposed the Two-Factor Theory of Intelligence using factor analysis?

- (a) Alfred Binet
- (b) Louis Thurstone
- (c) Charles Spearman
- (d) Howard Gardner

Correct Answer: (c) Charles Spearman

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Psychologists use statistical methods like factor analysis to determine whether intelligence is a single general ability or a collection of specific independent skills.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Spearman's theory focuses on two components: 'g' (General) and 's' (Specific).

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

In 1904, Charles Spearman proposed that every intellectual activity involves a general factor (g-factor), which is the mental energy required for all tasks, and a specific factor (s-factor),

which is unique to a particular task (like music, math, or language). He used factor analysis to show that people who perform well on one cognitive task tend to perform well on others, suggesting the presence of the g -factor.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Charles Spearman proposed the Two-Factor Theory of Intelligence.

Quick Tip: Remember: Spearman for Specific (s) and General (g) factors. Think of a "Spear" having one main point (g) and several smaller serrations (s).

2. According to Sternberg's Triarchic Theory, which intelligence involves adapting to real-world environments?

- (a) Componential
- (b) Experiential
- (c) Contextual
- (d) Spatial

Correct Answer: (c) Contextual

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Robert Sternberg's Triarchic Theory views intelligence as how well an individual deals with environmental changes throughout their lifespan. It divides intelligence into three parts.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

The three types are:

- **Analytical** (Componential)
- **Creative** (Experiential)
- **Practical** (Contextual)

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Contextual intelligence, often called "street smarts" or practical intelligence, is the ability to

adapt to, shape, and select environments that fit one's goals and needs. It is the application of intelligence to real-world situations, such as knowing how to navigate a social situation or solve a problem at work.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Contextual intelligence involves adapting to real-world environments.

Quick Tip: Think of "Context" as the "Situation." Practical intelligence is knowing what to do in a specific situation or context.

3. A 10-year-old child has a Mental Age of 12. What is the child's IQ?

- (a) 100
- (b) 110
- (c) 120
- (d) 130

Correct Answer: (c) 120

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Intelligence Quotient (IQ) is a measure used to express the relative intelligence of a person. The concept of IQ was originally derived using a ratio between mental age and chronological age.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

The formula developed by William Stern is:

$$IQ = \frac{MA}{CA} \times 100$$

Where *MA* is Mental Age and *CA* is Chronological (Actual) Age.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Given: $MA = 12$, $CA = 10$.

$$IQ = \frac{12}{10} \times 100$$

$$IQ = 1.2 \times 100$$

$$IQ = 120$$

Step 4: Final Answer:

The child's IQ is 120.

Quick Tip: If Mental Age is higher than Chronological Age, the IQ will always be above 100. If they are the same, the IQ is exactly 100.

4. Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences identifies how many types of intelligences?

- (a) 6
- (b) 7
- (c) 8
- (d) 9

Correct Answer: (c) 8

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Howard Gardner proposed that intelligence is not a single, general ability but rather a collection of relatively autonomous modules that can be developed independently.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

The current standard version of Gardner's theory includes eight distinct types of intelligence.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Originally, Gardner proposed seven intelligences in 1983, but later added an eighth (Naturalis-

tic). The current recognized list includes: 1. Linguistic, 2. Logical-Mathematical, 3. Musical, 4. Bodily-Kinesthetic, 5. Spatial, 6. Interpersonal, 7. Intrapersonal, and 8. Naturalistic. While a 9th (Existential) has been discussed, it is not yet universally included as a primary intelligence in most textbook versions of the theory.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Gardner's theory identifies 8 types of intelligences.

Quick Tip: To remember them, group them: School skills (Math/Language), Art skills (Music/Spatial), People skills (Inter/Intra), and Nature/Physical (Natural/Kinesthetic).

5. Which of the following is NOT one of Thurstone's Seven Primary Mental Abilities?

- (a) Word Fluency
- (b) Perceptual Speed
- (c) Emotional Reasoning
- (d) Inductive Reasoning

Correct Answer: (c) Emotional Reasoning

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Louis Thurstone challenged Spearman's *g*-factor theory, arguing that intelligence consists of seven distinct and primary mental abilities (PMA), which are relatively independent of each other.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Identify the seven PMAs: Verbal Comprehension, Numerical Ability, Spatial Relations, Perceptual Speed, Word Fluency, Memory, and Inductive Reasoning.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Thurstone's model focused on cognitive and logical functions. Emotional Reasoning is a concept related to Emotional Intelligence (EI), which was popularized much later (1990s)

by Daniel Goleman and others, and was not part of Thurstone's original classification in the 1930s.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Emotional Reasoning is NOT one of the Primary Mental Abilities.

Quick Tip: Thurstone's abilities are strictly "cognitive." If you see an option about "emotions" or "nature," it usually belongs to a different theory (like Gardner or Goleman).

6. Assertion (A): Intelligence is a culture-free concept.

Reason (R): Western intelligence tests measure skills like speed, analysis, and abstraction, which may not reflect non-western notions of intelligence.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true but R is false
- (d) A is false but R is true

Correct Answer: (d) A is false but R is true

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question deals with the "Cultural Fairness" of intelligence testing. It examines whether the definition of "being smart" is the same across all societies.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Evaluate Assertion (A) for factual accuracy, then evaluate Reason (R) and see if it logically explains why (A) would be true or false.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- **Evaluation of A:** Intelligence is not a culture-free concept. It is "culture-fair" or "culture-bound" because what is valued as intelligent behavior varies between cultures (e.g.,

individualistic vs. collectivistic societies). Thus, A is false.

- **Evaluation of R:** This is true. Western tests often focus on "technological intelligence" (speed, linear logic), while many Eastern/African cultures value "integral intelligence" (social harmony, obedience, and collective wisdom).

Step 4: Final Answer:

Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is a true statement.

Quick Tip: In A/R questions, if the Assertion sounds like a broad, absolute claim (like "always" or "universal"), check it twice—it's often the part that is false.

7. In the PASS model of intelligence, what do the three neurological systems represent?

- (a) Planning, Analysis, Spatial Skills
- (b) Planning, Attention-Arousal, Simultaneous-Successive Processing
- (c) Perception, Association, Sensation
- (d) Personality, Aptitude, Social Skills

Correct Answer: (b) Planning, Attention-Arousal, Simultaneous-Successive Processing

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The PASS model is a modern theory of intelligence based on the work of J.P. Das, Jack Naglieri, and Kirby. It is grounded in neuropsychological research, particularly the work of A.R. Luria.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

The acronym PASS stands for the four core processes: Planning, Attention-Arousal, Simultaneous, and Successive processing.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- **Attention-Arousal:** The ability to focus on specific stimuli while ignoring others.
- **Simultaneous Processing:** Perceiving relations between different items (e.g., seeing a

whole picture or map).

- **Successive Processing:** Handling information in a specific serial order (e.g., learning a phone number).
- **Planning:** The highest level of processing used for problem-solving and decision-making.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The three neurological systems in the PASS model represent Planning, Attention-Arousal, and Simultaneous-Successive Processing.

Quick Tip: Remember that the PASS model looks at "how" the brain processes information rather than just "what" it knows. It links specific cognitive functions to different parts of the brain.

8. Emotional Intelligence primarily deals with which of the following?

- (a) Mathematical problem solving
- (b) Perceiving, managing, and regulating emotions
- (c) Memorising facts quickly
- (d) Spatial visualisation

Correct Answer: (b) Perceiving, managing, and regulating emotions

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is the ability to monitor one's own and others' feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them, and to use this information to guide one's thinking and actions.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

According to Salovey and Mayer, EI consists of four branches: Perception, Use, Understanding, and Management of emotions.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Unlike traditional IQ (Intelligence Quotient) which measures cognitive and logical abilities, EI

measures "Emotional Quotient." It focuses on how an individual recognizes emotional cues, how they handle stress, and how they navigate interpersonal relationships with empathy.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Emotional Intelligence primarily deals with perceiving, managing, and regulating emotions.

Quick Tip: Think of IQ as "what gets you through school" and EI as "what gets you through life."

9. The term 'personality' is derived from the Latin word 'persona', which refers to:

- (a) Inner soul
- (b) A mask used by actors
- (c) Genetic blueprint
- (d) Social role

Correct Answer: (b) A mask used by actors

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The etymology (origin) of a word often reveals its historical meaning. In psychology, "personality" refers to the characteristic patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that make a person unique.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

The word "Personality" → Latin "Persona."

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

In ancient Roman theater, actors wore various masks to represent different characters or social statuses on stage. These masks were called "persona." Originally, personality was thought of as the "outward appearance" or the face one presents to the world. Modern psychology, however, includes both outward traits and deep internal characteristics.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The word 'persona' refers to a mask used by actors.

Quick Tip: Even though the word started with a "mask" (outward appearance), modern psychology defines personality as something that remains consistent across different "masks" or situations.

10. According to Freud, the 'id' operates on which principle?

- (a) Reality principle
- (b) Morality principle
- (c) Pleasure principle
- (d) Rationality principle

Correct Answer: (c) Pleasure principle

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, proposed that the human personality is composed of three interacting elements: the id, the ego, and the superego. Each element has its own driving force or "principle."

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Distinguish between the three parts of the psyche:

- **Id:** Pleasure Principle.
- **Ego:** Reality Principle.
- **Superego:** Morality Principle.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The **id** is the primitive and instinctive component of personality. It contains all the inherited biological components of personality present at birth. It operates on the **pleasure principle**, which is the idea that every wishful impulse should be satisfied immediately, regardless of the consequences. If the id's wants are not met, the person experiences tension or unpleasurable "inner drive."

Step 4: Final Answer:

The 'id' operates on the Pleasure principle.

Quick Tip: Think of the Id as a newborn baby—it wants what it wants (food, comfort, attention) and it wants it right now!

