

# General Education Assessment: Psychology

From existing Pre-Post Test for Psyc 110; 115

Objectives/Outcomes

Students should be able to:

## ***1. Interpret data, evidence, and arguments using discipline specific criteria.***

**Out of Five items (see below)**

**Psyc 115: Honors Intro Psyc (N= 41)**

**Pretest score: 2.95**

**Posttest score: 3.05**

**Psyc 110: General Intro Psyc (N= 111)**

**Pretest score: 2.22**

**Posttest score: 3.41**

Items:

2. Which correlational coefficient reflects the strongest relation between two variables?

- a. 200%
- b. +.07
- c. -.20
- d. +.01

3. Psychologists as well as other scientists need to confirm their findings by repeating observations, a process known as \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. replication
- b. evaluation
- c. empirical evidence
- d. objectivity

5. As Caroline is walking across campus, a car swerves toward her. Her heart races and sweat breaks out as she jumps out of harm's way. This mobilization of energy is due to the action of Caroline's:

- a. sympathetic nervous system.
- b. skeletal nervous system.
- c. somatic nervous system.
- d. parasympathetic nervous system

11. Recent evidence in support of the idea that hypnosis is actually an altered state of consciousness is based on

- a. studies of age regression.
- b. hypnotized subjects who simply will not do certain things unless they are hypnotized.
- c. comparisons with the behavior of subjects under the influence of drugs.
- d. physiological changes in the brain that were related to the suggestions given.

51. Monica is really freaked out by germs. She imagines germs on every surface, washes her hands until they crack and bleed and has bottles of hand sanitizer everywhere – at home, in her office, in her car. It is most likely that she meets the criteria for:

- a. Nothing – sounds normal to me!
- b. Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- c. Panic Disorder
- d. Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

## Objective

Students should be able to:

**2. Identify theories in the discipline relevant to understanding human behavior and society.**

Out of Five items (see below)

Psyc 115: Honors Intro Psyc (N= 41)

Pretest score: 3.00

Posttest score: 3.80

Psyc 110: General Intro Psyc N= 111

Pretest score: 2.22

Posttest score: 3.73

## Items:

15. Erik Erikson wrote that:
- a. stage theories are inadequate in capturing life's developmental changes.
  - b. eight inevitable crises must be resolved as one moves through life.
  - c. adult development is characterized by transitions and milestones.
  - d. personality is formed by the time a child turns five- or six-years-old.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ is the initial learning stage in classical conditioning that pairs a neutral stimulus with an unconditioned stimulus.
- a. Acquisition
  - b. Generalization
  - c. Spontaneous recovery
  - d. Extinction
34. According to \_\_\_\_\_ theory, basic survival and security needs must be satisfied before one can move on to such higher needs as self-actualization.
- a. Instinct.
  - b. Evolutionary.
  - c. Wiener's.
  - d. Maslow's.

39. The iceberg analogy is used to represent Freud's personality structure because
- a. the size of the iceberg represents egocentrism and its location in the ocean isolation.
  - b. it shows that most important processes occur beneath the level of consciousness.
  - c. it demonstrates the nature of personality as a huge destructive force.
  - d. it represents the chilling and amoral view of human existence.
42. Sandy is a very outgoing person who likes being around other people and socializing with them. According to the Big Five trait theory of personality, Sandy would be considered
- a. using defense mechanisms to protect herself from feelings of inferiority.
  - b. high on the stable and enduring personality disposition known as extraversion.
  - c. showing signs of her masculine archetypes in her collective unconscious.
  - d. conditioned through past reinforcements to be uncomfortable in social settings.

## Objective

Students should be able to:

### ***3. Distinguish the forces shaping human behavior and society.***

Out of Five items (see below)

**Psyc 115: Honors Intro Psyc (N= 41)**

**Pretest score: 1.37**

**Posttest score: 2.10**

**Psyc 110: General Intro Psyc (N= 111)**

**Pretest score: 2.29**

**Posttest score: 3.21**

12. Considering how nature and nurture work together in the development of language,
- a. children are able to use their social skills to acquire language in specific contexts.
  - b. the development of receptive language is universal, while the development of spoken language differs across cultures.
  - c. there is a critical period for the combination of receptive words and expressive words.
  - d. the primary language center and the biological language device are both needed for language to develop.
22. This schedule of reinforcement initially produces modest rates of responding which rapidly increase immediately preceding the delivery of the reinforcer:
- a. Fixed interval
  - b. Fixed ratio
  - c. Variable ratio
  - d. Variable interval

31. Motivation is BEST defined as \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. the set of factors that direct and energize the behavior of humans and other organisms
  - b. the conscious and unconscious thoughts that focus a person's behaviors and emotions
  - c. the physiological and psychological sparks that occur when a person really wants to
  - d. what makes you do what you do
41. Bandura's social cognitive theory of personality stresses the observation of adult behaviors as well as the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ in the development of a child's personality?
- a. modeling.
  - b. the unconscious
  - c. genetics
  - d. conditioning
59. Most anti-psychotic drugs work by reducing the activity of which neurotransmitter?
- a. Serotonin
  - b. Dopamine
  - c. Norepinephrine
  - d. GABA

## Objective

Students should be able to:

**4. Describe relations among individuals, groups, and society utilizing discipline specific terminology.**

Out of Five items (see below)

Psyc 115: Honors Intro Psyc (N= 41)

Pretest score: 3.66

Posttest score: 3.66

Psyc 110: General Intro Psyc (N= 111)

Pretest score: 2.57

Posttest score: 3.57

14. Tyler has very positive relationships with his peers. He identifies strongly with them, is well liked, and confides closely in his best friends. Research shows that adolescents like Tyler tend to have:
- a. insecure relationships with their parents, so they use their friends to compensate.
  - b. insecure relationships with their parents, because they focus more on their friends.
  - c. closer relationships with their same-sex parent than with their opposite-sex parent.
  - d. close and secure relationships with their parents as well.
43. The United States would be considered a \_\_\_\_\_ culture?
- a. Collectivistic
  - b. Humoristic
  - c. Individualistic
  - d. Holistic
45. A major kind of social influence is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. compliance
  - b. all of these
  - c. conformity
  - d. obedience

46. The effect that the presence of other people has on the decision to help or not help, with help becoming less likely as the number of bystanders increases is known as \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. compliance
- b. social loafing
- c. bystander effect
- d. groupthink

47. Liking or having the desire for a relationship with another person is called \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. interpersonal attraction
- b. interpersonal attitudes
- c. affective connections
- d. affective relations



## Objective

Students should be able to:

### ***5. Recognize the significance of individual, cultural, and societal diversity.***

Out of Five items (see below)

**Psyc 115: Honors Intro Psyc (N= 41)**

**Pretest score: 3.20**

**Posttest score: 3.95**

**Psyc 110: General Intro Psyc (N= 111)**

**Pretest score: 2.94**

**Posttest score: 4.10**

37. As the four winners of the grade-school spelling bee posed for a picture, each was mulling over the day's success. Which child shows an external locus of control?
- a. Jillian, who thinks, "This is my lucky day! I was really lucky to get such easy words!"
  - b. Camille, who thinks, "Wow! I'm really smart when it comes to spelling."
  - c. Brandon, who thinks, "I'll succeed by setting my sights on what I want and I'll keep trying!"
  - d. Joel, who thinks, "I really worked hard learning all those words and it paid off."
40. Many Jungian archetypes are indirectly measured by the \_\_\_\_\_, a test that is used by many organizations to match job applicants with appropriate kinds of jobs.
- a. Thematic Apperception Test
  - b. Wechsler Intelligence Scale
  - c. Myers-Briggs personality test
  - d. Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Indicator (MMPI)
49. The term insanity:
- a. refers to an individual with a serious mental disorder who is not responsible for their actions
  - b. is a legal term
  - c. is used frequently by psychologists
  - d. can be found frequently in the DSM-IV TR

50. Individuals with a severe psychological disorder:
- a. Display clear symptoms that dominate their lives
  - b. Either have poor relationships or no relationships with other
  - c. All of these
  - d. Exhibit severe and frequent behavior problems
53. Labeling a person as mentally ill:
- a. Can have serious and long-lasting effects.
  - b. Provoke prejudices and social rejection
  - c. All of these
  - d. Can turn people into stereotypes

**Full Scale, out of 25 items**

**Psyc 115: Honors Intro Psyc N= 41**

**Pretest score: 13.88**

**Posttest score: 16.61**

**Psyc 110: General Intro Psyc N= 112**

**Pretest score: 12.25**

**Posttest score: 17.97**

**Summary**

Objective	Psyc 110		Psyc 115	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
1	2.22	3.41	2.95	3.05
2	2.22	3.73	3.00	3.80
3	2.29	3.21	1.37	2.10
4	2.57	3.57	3.66	3.66
5	2.94	4.10	3.20	3.95
Full Scale	12.25	17.97	13.88	16.61