
Exam Questions

Everyone MUST ANSWER THIS QUESTION

Of all of the theories we have studied, which do you like best and which do you like least? Be sure to describe specific aspects to support your feelings. Make sure you address the strengths and weaknesses including an evaluation of its thoroughness, scientific support, potential for measurement, and developmental plan. Feel free to inject your own opinion. While it is important to cover elements we discussed in class, I am also interested in your personal appraisal.

Answer TWO of the following questions.

1. Pick three personality theorists and discuss how his/her personal background, culture, and zeitgeist may have influenced the development and components of his/her theory. Each person should represent a different paradigm or approach to personality.
2. I have stressed the theme that Behavior is a function of the Person and the Environment ($B = f(P::E)$). Describe one personality theory in which the "Person" influence is predominant, one in which the "Environment" is predominant, and one in which the two appear to be of relatively equal importance. Be sure to identify the reasons why you feel the theory is internal or externally oriented. Things you should address: Is your internal theory purely internal and your external theory purely external and why? Be sure to include a comment on the strength of this theory relevant to this emphasis. Eg. What are the consequences if a theory focuses exclusively on one aspect of the other?
3. A number of personality theorists have described various schemes for personality development. Pick three theorists and compare and contrast their developmental plans. Tell how they are similar and highlight how they are different. Don't get sidetracked into describing elements of their theories that have no relationship to development.
4. Compare and contrast the ways in which the Psychoanalytic, Sociocultural, Trait, and Humanistic theorists attempt to measure personality. Make sure you comment on the reliability and validity of each technique. From your point of view, which approach(es) make the most sense? That is, if you were a practicing psychologist, which techniques would you use.
5. Several of the theorists say that a basic source of tension or anxiety is conflict. Select four major theories and describe how this tension is generated, how this tension is expressed in behavior, and how it can be resolved. Be sure to highlight the similarities and differences in the theories.