

## PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD | REVIEW QUESTIONS

*These review questions are designed to help you assess your grasp of the facts and definitions covered in your textbook. Knowing facts and definitions is necessary (but not sufficient) for success on formal exams, which assess your ability to conceptualize and analyze the material covered in textbook and lecture. An answer key is provided at the end of these review questions so you can check your answers.*

1. According to the text, what is NOT a reason stated for studying child development?
  - A) help in the raising of children
  - B) proving or disproving certain child psychologists' theories
  - C) understanding human nature
  - D) choosing social policies that affect children in general
2. Which philosopher viewed the child as a tabula rasa, or blank slate, for his development theory?
  - A) Rousseau
  - B) Freud
  - C) Locke
  - D) Plato
3. Which early philosopher believed that children learn through spontaneous interactions with the physical world and other people and therefore, parents should give their children maximum freedom to explore?
  - A) Rousseau
  - B) Aristotle
  - C) Locke
  - D) Plato
4. What law came out of the Earl of Shaftesbury's effort at social reform?
  - A) a law forbidding any children from working
  - B) a law forbidding only girls from working
  - C) a law forbidding children under 10 from working
  - D) a law forbidding children from working in tunnels

5. When Jared was born, his father Rob was sure he was going to be a great soccer player. All you had to do was to look at the way he kicked his legs right after birth. Rob and all of his brothers played soccer in college, too. Jared's first ball was a soccer ball. As soon as he could walk his dad was showing him how to kick the ball. At age 4, Jared led his peewee soccer team in goals and was the fastest one down the field. Which concept is most prevalent in Rob's beliefs about his son's soccer skills?
- A) nature
  - B) nurture
  - C) nature and nurture are both influential
  - D) neither nature nor nurture have anything to do with Jared's soccer skills
6. Sue believes little Janey learned to talk overnight. She is sure Janey went to sleep saying one or two words and woke up saying sentences of four to six words. Sue is subscribing to the idea that development is:
- A) continuous.
  - B) both continuous and discontinuous, depending on how and how often you look at it.
  - C) neither continuous nor discontinuous.
  - D) discontinuous.
7. The physical, social, cultural, economic, and historical circumstances that make up a child's environment are known as:
- A) variation.
  - B) sociocultural context.
  - C) selection.
  - D) continuity.
8. According to the text, which of the following is NOT a stated reason for studying child development?
- A) to better understand human nature
  - B) to provide help in the raising of children
  - C) to help judge how children are treated under different political systems
  - D) to gain insight into social-policy issues that affect children
9. Which philosopher believed that children are born with innate knowledge, such as the concept of "animal"?
- A) Plato
  - B) Aristotle
  - C) Locke
  - D) Rousseau

10. What contribution to the emergence of child development as a discipline did the Austrian psychiatrist Sigmund Freud make?
- A) pioneering the study of intelligence in children
  - B) studying differences in children of the same age
  - C) promoting the theory that development is influenced by biological drives
  - D) proposing that development is determined by environmental factors
11. Mike and Nicola are both very well-read individuals, to whom school and learning came very easily. They both learned to read at very young ages. When their child Jonah was born, Mike and Nicola were confident that he, too, would do very well at school and would learn easily. They began reading aloud to Jonah when he was an infant, and made sure the house was full of books and other reading materials. As Jonah grew older, they made sure that a certain amount of time each day was given over to independent reading. Which concept is most prevalent in the parents' beliefs about Jonah's learning skills?
- A) nature
  - B) nurture
  - C) nature and nurture are both influential
  - D) Neither nature nor nurture is relevant to their beliefs.
12. The concept of the “active child” refers to:
- A) observations of children at play.
  - B) whether an infant sleeps through the night.
  - C) the importance of physical activity to child development.
  - D) how children contribute to their own development.
13. In the context of mechanisms of developmental change, the study of the development of *effortful attention* provides insights into:
- A) continuous versus discontinuous development.
  - B) the role of brain activity, genes, and learning experiences.
  - C) the complexity of the child's sociocultural environment.
  - D) the role of the researcher in judging the validity of a study.
14. Whether children sleep with their parents and to what age they do so in different parts of the world is an example of differences in:
- A) sociocultural environment.
  - B) variation.
  - C) discontinuous development.
  - D) correlation.

15. Which of the following groups of Romanian-born children adopted by British families fared the best in weight gain after adoption?
- A) children who were adopted before age 6 months
  - B) children who were adopted between the ages of 6 and 24 months
  - C) children who were adopted between the ages of 24 and 42 months
  - D) All of the adopted children fared equally poorly in weight gain.
16. The views of Aristotle, Locke, and Plato were primarily based on:
- A) the scientific method.
  - B) impressions and general beliefs.
  - C) structured observations of children.
  - D) clinical interviews of parents.
17. The “baby biography” was developed by:
- A) Darwin.
  - B) Locke.
  - C) Freud.
  - D) Watson.
18. The emergence of theories such as those of Freud and Watson in the early twentieth century reflected the:
- A) increasing influence of early philosophical views of childhood.
  - B) incorporation of research findings into the study of child development.
  - C) frustration of universities trying to find suitable articles to print in professional journals.
  - D) rise of young children as paid laborers in factories and mines.
19. Freud based his theory of child development in large part on:
- A) hypnosis and analysis of dreams and childhood memories.
  - B) a systematic daily diary of a single child's growth.
  - C) experiments on reward and punishment of rats and other animals.
  - D) study of children working in coal mines.
20. In a study of adopted children, the finding that the only children who had a considerable likelihood of becoming schizophrenic were those who had a schizophrenic biological parent and who were also adopted into a troubled home is evidence of:
- A) the influence of nature.
  - B) the influence of nurture.
  - C) the interaction of nature and nurture.
  - D) random variation in the population.

21. Which of the following factors is an example of a way in which children shape their own development?
- A) play style
  - B) socioeconomic status
  - C) number of siblings
  - D) All of the answers are correct.
22. Stage theories regard development as:
- A) active.
  - B) passive.
  - C) continuous.
  - D) discontinuous.
23. One of the best-known stage theories of cognitive development is the theory of:
- A) Piaget.
  - B) Scarr.
  - C) Freud.
  - D) Erikson.
24. Which of the following statements reflects what the textbook maintains is the best answer to the question of whether development is fundamentally continuous or discontinuous?
- A) Development is fundamentally continuous.
  - B) Development is fundamentally discontinuous.
  - C) Some domains of development, such as cognitive development, are fundamentally discontinuous, whereas other domains, such as social development, are fundamentally continuous.
  - D) Whether development is fundamentally continuous or discontinuous depends on perspective—how development is examined as well as how often it is examined.
25. Neurotransmitters are:
- A) the electrical impulses in the brain.
  - B) chemicals involved in communication between brain cells.
  - C) gene defects that produce schizophrenia.
  - D) what early philosophers theorized reflected children's core nature at birth.
26. Which of the following aspects is NOT considered part of the sociocultural context?
- A) neighborhood
  - B) societal values
  - C) historical era
  - D) genes

27. The term used for the social class measure based on income and education is:
- A) race.
  - B) socioeconomic status.
  - C) culture.
  - D) sociocultural context.
28. The highest percent of the population below the poverty line is found in which of the following groups?
- A) married-couple white families
  - B) married-couple black families
  - C) single-mother Asian families
  - D) single-mother Hispanic families
29. Which of the following factors is the greatest obstacle to poor children's chances of successful development?
- A) accumulation of various disadvantages
  - B) growing up in single-parent homes or without biological parents
  - C) parents' lack of involvement in their schooling
  - D) living in dangerous neighborhoods
30. Which of the following items is NOT one of the four factors Scarr identified as involved in the differences among siblings?
- A) sociocultural context
  - B) genes
  - C) children's choice of environments
  - D) treatment by parents and others

## Answer Key - Scope Review

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. D
7. B
8. C
9. A
10. C
11. C
12. D
13. B
14. A
15. A
16. B
17. A
18. B
19. A
20. C
21. A
22. D
23. A
24. D
25. B
26. D
27. B
28. D
29. A
30. A