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. Which of the theories of cognitive development does not address as a major focus how change occurs?
   A) core-knowledge theories
   B) information-processing theories
   C) dynamic systems theories
   D) sociocultural theories

2. Both Steven, age 5, and his sister Susan, age 9, have been presented with a task in which they are shown pictures of both plants and animals. They are asked to remember which pictures are of plants. Steven is unable to distinguish the pictures, while Susan does so successfully. Which strategy has Susan used?
   A) rehearsal
   B) selective attention
   C) encoding
   D) speed of processing

3. Which answer choice lists Piagetian stages in the correct sequence?
   A) formal operational, concrete operational, preoperational, sensorimotor
   B) sensorimotor, preoperational, concrete operational, formal operational
   C) preoperational, sensorimotor, concrete operational, formal operational
   D) sensorimotor, preoperational, formal operational, concrete operational

4. Which of the following views best represents information-processing theories?
   A) child as social being
   B) child as scientist
   C) child as computational system
   D) child as product of evolution

5. The attempt to overcome obstacles and attain goals is referred to as:
   A) problem solving.
   B) working memory.
   C) encoding.
   D) task analysis.

6. Assimilation is the process by which individuals:
   A) translate incoming information into a form they can understand.
   B) adapt current knowledge in response to new experiences.
   C) understand sources of discontinuity.
   D) demonstrate broad applicability.

7. Which of the following views best represents core-knowledge theories?
   A) child as social being
   B) child as scientist
   C) child as computational system
   D) child as product of evolution

8. _____ theory(ies) is(are) particularly concerned with private speech.
   A) Dynamic-systems
   B) Core-knowledge
   C) Piagetian
   D) Sociocultural
   E) Overlapping-waves

9. The concept of social scaffolding is most similar to the concept of:
   A) joint attention.
   B) guided participation.
   C) intersubjectivity.
   D) private speech.

10. Centration refers to:
    A) perceiving the world solely from one's own point of view.
    B) using one object to stand for another.
    C) focusing on a single salient feature of an object to the exclusion of other features.
    D) having difficulty taking other people's perspectives.

11. Which is a major difference between the formal operations stage and the three previous stages?
    A) The formal operations stage has a broad applicability across topics and contexts.
    B) Not all individuals reach the formal operations stage.
    C) The formal operations stage can sometimes be attained before one of the three previous stages.
    D) The formal operations stage does not exhibit qualitative change.

12. Myelin acts as a(n):
    A) insulator.
    B) storage area.
    C) automatic encoder.
    D) speed controller.

13. The first sign that infants are gaining the ability to form enduring mental representations is referred to in Piagetian theory as:
    A) object permanence.
    B) the A-not-B error.
    C) deferred imitation.
    D) symbolic representation.

14. During which Piagetian stage are conservation concept studies most revealing of children's limitations?
    A) sensorimotor
    B) preoperational
    C) concrete operational
    D) formal operational

15. Working memory is also known as _____ memory.
    A) operational
    B) long-term
    C) sensory
    D) short-term

16. _____ theory(ies) concentrate(s) on precisely detailing the processes involved in children's thinking?
    A) Core-knowledge
    B) Information-processing
    C) Piagetian
    D) Sociocultural

17. Task analyses, analyses of cognitive processes, and a general view of children as problem solvers are all characteristic of:
    A) Piagetian theory.
    B) information-processing theories.
    C) core-knowledge theories.
    D) sociocultural theories.

18. In Vygotsky's theory, children are depicted as what?
    A) social beings
    B) computational systems
    C) little scientists
    D) well-equipped products of evolution

19. Structure and processes are part of:
    A) dynamic-systems theory.
    B) core-knowledge theories.
    C) Piagetian theory.
    D) information-processing theory.

20. The term *conservation concept* refers to the idea that:
    A) all nature is of vital importance and thus worth preserving.
    B) perceptions of the world differ depending on point of view.
    C) a particular object can be used to stand for another object.
    D) merely changing the appearance of objects does not change their key properties.

21. Which of the following views best represents sociocultural theories?
    A) child as social being
    B) child as scientist
    C) child as computational system
    D) child as product of evolution

22. Children first come to think abstractly and reason hypothetically in Piaget's _____ stage.
    A) formal operations
    B) sensorimotor
    C) postoperational
    D) preoperational
    E) concrete operations

23. Which perspective on development focuses on how basic actions, such as crawling, walking, reaching, and grasping, can yield insights?
    A) dynamic systems theories
    B) Piagetian theory
    C) core-knowledge theories
    D) information-processing theories

24. The mutual understanding that people share during communication is referred to as:
    A) social scaffolding.
    B) guided participation.
    C) intersubjectivity.
    D) proximal development.

25. _____ theory(ies) focus(es) on how children's interactions with other people guide cognitive development?
    A) Core-knowledge
    B) Information-processing
    C) Piagetian
    D) Sociocultural

26. In information processing theories, encoding refers to:
    A) the actions of the cortex and the cerebellum in processing memory.
    B) the recall of specific facts and figures.
    C) the increased general connectivity among brain regions.
    D) the representation in memory of specific features of objects and events.

27. Core knowledge theories depict children as:
    A) learning in response to their environment.
    B) active learners.
    C) learning primarily from example.
    D) requiring intense input of knowledge in order to learn.

28. The process by which children balance assimilation and accommodation to create stable understanding is referred to as:
    A) equilibration.
    B) adaptation.
    C) alteration.
    D) absorption.

29. Children make the transition from Piaget's preoperational to concrete operational stage at around _____ years old.
    A) 2
    B) 5
    C) 7
    D) 12

30. During what Piagetian stage can a child first take another's perspective as well as his own in a situation such as the three-mountains task?
    A) preoperational
    B) concrete operational
    C) formal operational
    D) both preoperational and concrete operational

31. There are only two cookies left in the cookie jar. One of the cookies is broken into two pieces. Janet, age 4, begins to cry when her brother Justin gets the broken cookie. According to Piagetian theory, what is the most likely cause of Janet's distress?
    A) Janet cannot assimilate.
    B) Janet does not understand the conservation concept.
    C) Broken cookies taste better.
    D) Janet wanted both cookies.

32. Brad and Tom are studying for their child development exam. Brad claims that basic parts of the information-processing theory include content knowledge, assimilation, strategies, and basic processes. Tom tells Brad that one of these parts is not correct. Which part should Tom identify as not correct?
    A) content knowledge
    B) assimilation
    C) strategies
    D) basic processes

33. Vygotsky's theory is a type of _____ theory.
    A) information-processing
    B) sociocultural
    C) Piagetian
    D) core-knowledge

34. The dynamic-systems approach is intended to counter which disadvantage of other theories of cognitive development?
    A) inability to explain infants' apparent innate knowledge of some domains
    B) lack of emphasis on how others help children learn
    C) lack of attention to strategic variability
    D) impression that children's thinking and their actions are independent

35. When children are in the sensorimotor stage, they are:
    A) between birth and 2 years old and know the world through their senses and actions.
    B) between 2 and 7 years old and acquire the ability to internally represent the world through language and mental imagery.
    C) at least 12 years old, can think systematically, and are able to reason.
    D) between 7 and 12 years old and become able to think logically.

36. Knowledge of the events of one's life is referred to as:
    A) private speech.
    B) personification.
    C) autobiographical memory.
    D) autobiological memory.

37. According to Piagetian theory, young infants' goals are _____, and older infants' goals are more _____.
    A) concrete; abstract
    B) abstract; concrete
    C) realistic; unrealistic
    D) unrealistic; realistic

38. Sharon has learned how to press the buttons on the television remote control. She finds the touch-tone phone sitting on the coffee table. She begins pressing the buttons much like she would the remote control buttons. According to Piagetian theory, this is an example of:
    A) assimilation.
    B) egocentrism.
    C) accommodation.
    D) centration.

39. The process of repeating information over and over again in order to remember it is considered _____ by the information-processing approach.
    A) effective
    B) to be due to poor myelination
    C) utilization deficient
    D) irrational

40. Michael turns a blanket into a cape. His teddy bear becomes his trusted sidekick. The oversized refrigerator box is Michael's spaceship. According to Piaget, what characteristic is Michael displaying?
    A) object permanence
    B) conservation
    C) symbolic representation
    D) deferred imitation

41. The understanding that objects continue to exist even when they are out of view is referred to as:
    A) object existence.
    B) object permanence.
    C) object recollection.
    D) object stability.

42. Private speech is conceived of by Vygotsky as a(n):
    A) error that young children make.
    B) example of something that adults explicitly teach children.
    C) cultural tool.
    D) step toward internalizing parents' statements.

43. Sociocultural theories refer to the values, economic circumstances, symbol systems, and skills that are involved in everyday interactions as:
    A) cultural tools.
    B) cultural byproducts.
    C) social constructs.
    D) social instruments.

44. Johnny pretends that his hat is a space helmet, he thinks the world revolves around him, and he engages in one-sided conversations in which he does not listen to what the other person is saying. Johnny is in what Piagetian stage?
   A) concrete operational
   B) formal operational
   C) sensorimotor
   D) preoperational

45. Which of the following terms does NOT identify one of Piaget's stages?
   A) formal operational
   B) sensorimotor
   C) postoperational
   D) preoperational

46. In Piaget's view, what produces cognitive development?
   A) nature only
   B) nurture only
   C) the interaction of nature and nurture
   D) both nature and nurture, independently

47. Encoding refers to:
   A) representing features of objects in memory.
   B) recognizing objects.
   C) generalizing form one event to another.
   D) goal-directed behavior.

48. The tendency to respond to the requirements of the environment in ways that meet one's goals is referred to as:
   A) assimilation.
   B) adaptation.
   C) accommodation.
   D) organization.

49. A playgroup made up of 4-year-olds is unable to agree on the rules of a game. A playgroup made up of 6-year-olds successfully agrees on the rules of their game. What aspect of sociocultural theories is being demonstrated?
   A) cultural tools
   B) autobiographical memory
   C) intersubjectivity
   D) social scaffolding

50. Providing useful associations, improving encoding, and having the ability to determine what is and what is not possible are all ways in which _____ improves memory.
    A) mental rotation
    B) rehearsal
    C) selective attention
    D) prior content knowledge

51. Egocentrism is characteristic of which of Piaget's _____ stage.
    A) formal operations
    B) sensorimotor
    C) postoperational
    D) preoperational
    E) concrete operations

52. Understanding new problems by recognizing parallels with familiar problems is referred to as:
    A) analogical reasoning.
    B) planning.
    C) overlapping waves.
    D) strategy comparison.

53. Reflexes are the primary manner of interacting with the world for children of what age?
    A) newborn
    B) 6 months
    C) 9 months
    D) 12 months

54. Which of the following lists best represents Piaget's stages in the correct chronological order?
    A) preoperational, sensorimotor, concrete operational, formal operational
    B) sensorimotor, preoperational, concrete operational, formal operational
    C) sensorimotor, concrete operational, preoperational, formal operational
    D) preoperational, sensorimotor, formal operational, concrete operational
    E) sensorimotor, formal operational, concrete operational, preoperational

55. Which is NOT an element of task analysis?
    A) identification of limited capacity
    B) identification of goals
    C) identification of relevant information in the environment
    D) identification of processing strategies

56. What is the process by which children balance assimilation and accommodation to create a stable understanding of their world?
    A) broad applicability
    B) equilibration
    C) organization
    D) qualitative change

57. Which of the following adjectives is NOT characteristic of formal operational thought?
    A) systematic
    B) abstract
    C) advanced
    D) one-dimensional

58. Sensory memory refers to:
    A) information retained about how one feels about a particular event or individual.
    B) the workspace in which information from the environment and relevant knowledge are brought together.
    C) sights and sounds that are just entering the cognitive system and that are briefly held in raw form.
    D) information retained on an enduring basis.

59. Which best explains why individuals who have attained the formal operational stage may develop a taste for science fiction?
    A) They are better able to solve conservation tasks.
    B) The egocentrism that was prevalent in an earlier stage returns.
    C) Their expanding perspectives allow them to envision alternative realities.
    D) Understanding science fiction is a basic test administered by Piagetian theorists.

60. Which theory emphasizes that children are a product of their culture?
    A) Piagetian theory
    B) information-processing theories
    C) core-knowledge theories
    D) sociocultural theories

61. When trying to remember something, individuals often focus only on the information that is most relevant to their current goal, while not focusing on other information. This is referred to as:
    A) selective attention.
    B) planning.
    C) analogical reasoning.
    D) rehearsal.

62. Leanne, age 5, explains to her mother how animals grow. Surprisingly, her naive theory is very accurate. Which cognitive theories best explain Leanne's beliefs?
    A) information-processing theories
    B) Piagetian theory
    C) core-knowledge theories
    D) sociocultural theories

63. Which is NOT an identified weakness of Piagetian theory?
    A) Piaget discounts the possibility of abstract thinking.
    B) The stage model overstates the consistency of children's thinking.
    C) Children are more cognitively competent than Piaget recognized.
    D) Piagetian theory understates the contribution of the social world to development.

64. _____ theory(ies) places particular emphasis on infants' and young children's early understandings.
    A) Core-knowledge
    B) Information-processing
    C) Piagetian
    D) Sociocultural

65. In which way are dynamic systems theories similar to Piagetian theory?
    A) an emphasis on the formative influence of other people
    B) an emphasis on early emerging competencies
    C) an emphasis on precise analyses of problem-solving activity
    D) an emphasis on children being strongly motivated to learn about the world around them

66. In _____ theory(ies), children are born with specialized learning abilities to allow them to easily learn information of evolutionary importance.
    A) core-knowledge
    B) information-processing
    C) Piagetian
    D) sociocultural

Answer Key - Theory Review

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. A
7. D
8. D
9. B
10. C
11. B
12. A
13. C
14. D
15. D
16. B
17. B
18. A
19. D
20. D
21. A
22. A
23. A
24. C
25. D
26. D
27. B
28. A
29. C
30. B
31. B
32. B
33. B
34. D
35. A
36. C
37. A
38. A
39. A
40. C
41. B
42. D
43. A
44. D
45. C
46. C
47. A
48. B
49. C
50. D
51. D
52. A

53. A
54. B
55. A
56. B
57. D
58. C
59. C
60. D
61. A
62. C
63. A
64. A
65. D
66. A