

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (TAMU) PSYC 307 DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY EXAM 2 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. In statistics, which distribution is described as scores that fall symmetrically around a mean with fewer scores as they move farther from the mean?**
 - A. Skewed distribution
 - B. Bimodal distribution
 - C. Normal distribution
 - D. Uniform distribution
- 2. Which statement accurately describes gene-environment interaction in intelligence?**
 - A. Genetic effects are independent of environmental context.
 - B. Enviro context explains all differences, with no genetic influence.
 - C. Genetic potential interacts with environmental quality to influence IQ.
 - D. Heritability is constant across environments.
- 3. Sturge-Apple's findings have implications for which health-related domain?**
 - A. Language development
 - B. Obesity and eating
 - C. Fine motor skills
 - D. Vision
- 4. Which statement best illustrates joint attention?**
 - A. The mutual understanding shared during communication.
 - B. A process in which social partners intentionally focus on the same external object, particularly involved with language development; for example, a parent tells the child the name of an object while pointing at it.
 - C. A framework provided by a more competent person to support child thinking.
 - D. The memory of one's own experiences.
- 5. Which term means the cognitive processes used to represent a situation or sequence of events?**
 - A. Script
 - B. Mental Model
 - C. Phonological Recoding Skills
 - D. Dyslexia

- 6. Which statement best describes the approach that shifts from judging behavior as good or bad to understanding its function in context?**
- A. Functional Approach
 - B. Moralistic Approach
 - C. Punishment-based Approach
 - D. Cognitive Approach
- 7. Under which concept do adults and peers organize learning activities to help children master tasks they could not do alone?**
- A. Cultural tools
 - B. Guided participation
 - C. Nativism
 - D. Content knowledge
- 8. Which disease is having an outbreak in the US with the epicenter in Washington state?**
- A. Mumps
 - B. Measles
 - C. Polio
 - D. Chickenpox
- 9. Measles and whooping cough can be especially lethal for which groups?**
- A. Infants and the elderly
 - B. Adults and teenagers
 - C. Healthy middle-aged adults
 - D. Infants only
- 10. The Flynn effect is defined as which of the following?**
- A. Consistent rise in average IQ scores that has occurred over the past 80 years in many countries
 - B. A gradual decline in test scores
 - C. An increase in school attendance
 - D. A program to raise IQ

Answers

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1. C
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. A

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Explanations

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1. In statistics, which distribution is described as scores that fall symmetrically around a mean with fewer scores as they move farther from the mean?

- A. Skewed distribution
- B. Bimodal distribution
- C. Normal distribution**
- D. Uniform distribution

The key idea is the normal (bell-shaped) distribution: scores cluster around a central mean, and the frequency tapers off as you move away from that center. This symmetry means the left and right sides mirror each other, with fewer observations the farther you go from the mean. It's also typical that the mean, median, and mode align in a normal distribution. That's why this option fits: it describes a symmetric, bell-shaped pattern with decreasing likelihood the farther you are from the center. The other patterns don't match. A skewed distribution isn't symmetric and has a longer tail on one side. A bimodal distribution has two peaks rather than a single central peak. A uniform distribution would show equal frequency across all values, not clustering around a central mean.

2. Which statement accurately describes gene-environment interaction in intelligence?

- A. Genetic effects are independent of environmental context.
- B. Enviro context explains all differences, with no genetic influence.
- C. Genetic potential interacts with environmental quality to influence IQ.**
- D. Heritability is constant across environments.

Gene-environment interaction means that genetic influences on intelligence don't act alone; the environment changes how much genetics affects IQ. People have genetic differences that contribute to cognitive potential, but whether that potential shows up in IQ scores depends on environmental quality—things like nutrition, stimulation, education, and stress. In a supportive, enriched environment, genetic differences can express themselves more, while in poorer environments, environmental constraints can dampen or mask those genetic differences. That idea—that genetic potential and environmental quality shape IQ together—best captures how IQ is influenced in real life. The other statements miss this interplay. Genetics don't operate completely independently of environment, and environments don't explain all differences with no genetic influence. And heritability isn't the same across all environments; it can vary depending on how much the environment constrains or supports development.

3. Sturge-Apple's findings have implications for which health-related domain?

- A. Language development
- B. Obesity and eating**
- C. Fine motor skills
- D. Vision

Family dynamics and emotional regulation influence children's eating behaviors and obesity risk. Sturge-Apple's work highlights how the emotional climate at home—conflicts, parenting approaches, and how children learn to manage emotions—can shape patterns of eating, such as emotional or stress driven eating. When children experience ongoing distress or struggle with regulating feelings, they may turn to food for comfort, which over time can contribute to weight gain and obesity. The findings thus point to the health domain of obesity and eating because they connect the social environment and emotional processes to health-related eating patterns. The other options focus on cognitive, motor, or perceptual skills, which aren't the primary focus of Sturge-Apple's findings.

4. Which statement best illustrates joint attention?

- A. The mutual understanding shared during communication.
- B. A process in which social partners intentionally focus on the same external object, particularly involved with language development; for example, a parent tells the child the name of an object while pointing at it.**
- C. A framework provided by a more competent person to support child thinking.
- D. The memory of one's own experiences.

Joint attention is about two people sharing the same focus on an object and being aware that the other person is also attending to it. This coordinated focus, often accompanied by communicative signals like pointing and labeling, helps bridge attention and language learning. The scenario where a parent points to an object and names it while the child is looking at that object perfectly demonstrates this: both are focused on the same thing, and the parent uses language to highlight and discuss it. This combination of shared focus and intentional communication is what makes joint attention a foundation for early language development. Other choices describe related social or cognitive processes—like general communication, scaffolding, or personal memory—but they don't capture the essential element of two people deliberately aligning their attention on the same external object for the purpose of communication.

5. Which term means the cognitive processes used to represent a situation or sequence of events?

- A. Script
- B. Mental Model**
- C. Phonological Recoding Skills
- D. Dyslexia

Mental models are internal cognitive representations of how a situation is organized and how events unfold. They let you capture the relationships among elements, understand the flow of actions, and predict what might happen next. This makes them the best fit for describing the cognitive processes used to represent a situation or sequence of events, because they provide a flexible, working picture you can rely on to reason about new scenarios. A script is a specific kind of knowledge about familiar routines and the typical order of actions in a given situation. Phonological recoding skills relate to translating sounds into letters during reading, not to representing situations. Dyslexia is a reading disorder, not a representation method. So mental models best capture the broader, adaptable way we mentally represent how things are arranged and unfold.

6. Which statement best describes the approach that shifts from judging behavior as good or bad to understanding its function in context?

A. Functional Approach

B. Moralistic Approach

C. Punishment-based Approach

D. Cognitive Approach

The main idea being tested is understanding behavior by its function in the surrounding situation rather than simply labeling it as good or bad. A functional approach asks what need or goal the behavior serves for the individual and how the environment supports it. For example, if a child tantrums, the focus is on the function—perhaps to gain attention or to escape a difficult task—and on the environmental factors that reinforce that behavior. By identifying the antecedents that trigger it and the consequences that perpetuate it, we can change the context or the responses to reduce the behavior, instead of just judging it as wrong. This differs from a moralistic view, which evaluates actions based on right or wrong according to values, not on the function they serve. It also differs from a punishment-based approach, which emphasizes reducing behavior through punishment rather than understanding and altering the underlying purpose of the behavior. And it differs from a cognitive approach, which would focus on internal thoughts and beliefs rather than how the behavior serves the person in a given context.

7. Under which concept do adults and peers organize learning activities to help children master tasks they could not do alone?

A. Cultural tools

B. Guided participation

C. Nativism

D. Content knowledge

Guided participation is when adults and more capable peers organize and guide children's learning activities to help them master tasks they can't do on their own. This happens through shared tasks where the adult provides appropriate support and gradually withdraws help as the child gains competence, aligning with the idea that learning occurs best within the zone of proximal development. For example, a parent might model how to button a shirt and then guide the child's hands, or a teacher might design a science activity with a mentor scaffolding the problem-solving process. Cultural tools refer to the artifacts and practices that shape how people think and communicate, rather than the social scaffolding of a task. Nativism emphasizes innate abilities rather than guided social interaction. Content knowledge is about what is known in a domain, not how learning is supported through social participation.

8. Which disease is having an outbreak in the US with the epicenter in Washington state?

- A. Mumps
- B. Measles**
- C. Polio
- D. Chickenpox

Measles is the disease at issue because it's extremely contagious and tends to create concentrated outbreaks in places where vaccination coverage is low. A real-world Washington state outbreak drew attention precisely because the virus spread quickly through communities with fewer people vaccinated, showing how an epicenter can fuel transmission to surrounding areas. The MMR vaccine provides strong protection, so outbreaks typically flare up when pockets of unvaccinated individuals exist. While other diseases listed can cause outbreaks, they don't have the same well-documented, WA-state epicenter pattern in recent public health reporting. Measles best fits the description.

9. Measles and whooping cough can be especially lethal for which groups?

- A. Infants and the elderly**
- B. Adults and teenagers
- C. Healthy middle-aged adults
- D. Infants only

Measles and pertussis pose the greatest risk to people with the most vulnerable or waning immune systems. Infants have not yet developed full immunity and may not be fully vaccinated, and their airways are smaller and more easily overwhelmed by infection. The elderly, on the other hand, often experience immune senescence and have more chronic health problems, making severe complications and death more likely. Because the question asks which groups are especially at risk for these diseases, infants and the elderly together best reflect the populations most susceptible to lethal outcomes.

10. The Flynn effect is defined as which of the following?

- A. Consistent rise in average IQ scores that has occurred over the past 80 years in many countries**
- B. A gradual decline in test scores
- C. An increase in school attendance
- D. A program to raise IQ

The Flynn effect describes a long-term rise in average IQ scores across many countries over several decades. This pattern has been observed since the early 20th century, with averages increasing by a few points per decade. Because IQ tests are periodically re-normed to keep the average at 100, the upward shift reflects changes in test performance due to environmental factors—such as better nutrition, education, more cognitively demanding environments, and greater familiarity with test tasks—rather than a sudden change in inherent intelligence. The other options describe declines, changes in schooling, or a program to raise IQ, none of which capture this broad, historical trend.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://tamu-psyc307exam2.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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