

SYLLABUS

Applicable from June 2019, Examination

1. Emergence of Psychology

Psychological thought in some major Eastern Systems: Bhagavad Gita, Buddhism, Sufism and Integral Yoga. Academic psychology in India: Pre-independence era; Post-independence era; 1970s: The move to addressing social issues; 1980s: Indigenisation; 1990s: Paradigmatic concerns, disciplinary identity crisis; 2000s: Emergence of Indian psychology in academia. Issues: The colonial encounter; Post colonialism and psychology; Lack of distinct disciplinary identity.

Western: Greek heritage, medieval period and modern period. Structuralism, Functionalism, Psychoanalytical, Gestalt, Behaviourism, Humanistic-Existential, Transpersonal, Cognitive revolution, Multiculturalism. Four founding paths of academic psychology - Wundt, Freud, James, Dilthey. Issues: Crisis in psychology due to strict adherence to experimental-analytical paradigm (logical empiricism). Indic influences on modern psychology.

Essential aspects of knowledge paradigms: Ontology, epistemology and methodology. Paradigms of Western Psychology: Positivism, Post-Positivism, Critical perspective, Social Constructionism, Existential Phenomenology and Cooperative Enquiry. Paradigmatic Controversies. Significant Indian paradigms on psychological knowledge: Yoga, Bhagavad Gita, Buddhism, Sufism and Integral Yoga. Science and spirituality (avidya and vidya). The primacy of self-knowledge in Indian psychology.

2. Research Methodology and Statistics

Research: Meaning, Purpose and Dimensions. Research problems, Variables and Operational Definitions, Hypothesis, Sampling. Ethics in conducting and reporting research.

Paradigms of research: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed methods approach. Methods of research: Observation, Survey [Interview, Questionnaires], Experimental, Quasi-experimental, Field studies, Cross-Cultural Studies, Phenomenology, Grounded theory, Focus groups, Narratives, Case studies, Ethnography.

Statistics in Psychology: Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion. Normal Probability Curve. Parametric [t-test] and Non-parametric tests [Sign Test, Wilcoxon Signed rank test, Mann-Whitney test, Kruskal-Wallis test, Friedman]. Power analysis. Effect size.

Correlational Analysis: Correlation [Product Moment, Rank Order], Partial correlation, Multiple correlation. Special Correlation Methods: Biserial, Point biserial, tetrachoric, phi coefficient. Regression: Simple linear regression, Multiple regression. Factor analysis: Assumptions, Methods, Rotation and Interpretation.

Experimental Designs: ANOVA [One-way, Factorial], Randomised Block designs, Repeated Measures design, Latin Square, Cohort studies, Time series, MANOVA, ANCOVA. Single-subject designs.

3. Psychological Testing

Types of tests, Test construction: Item writing, item analysis, Test standardisation: Reliability, validity and norms.

Areas of testing: Intelligence, Creativity, Neuropsychological tests, Aptitude, Personality assessment, Interest inventories, Attitude scales – Semantic differential, Staples, Likert scale. Computer-based psychological testing.

Applications of psychological testing in various settings: Clinical, Organisational and business, Education, Counselling, Military. Career guidance.

4. Biological Basis of Behaviour

Sensory systems: General and specific sensations, Receptors and processes Neurons: Structure, Functions, Types, Neural impulse, Synaptic transmission. Neurotransmitters. The Central and Peripheral Nervous Systems – Structure and functions. Neuroplasticity.

Methods of Physiological Psychology: Invasive methods – Anatomical methods, Degeneration techniques, Lesion techniques, Chemical methods, Microelectrode studies. Non-invasive methods – EEG, Scanning methods.

Muscular and Glandular system: Types and functions Biological basis of Motivation: Hunger, Thirst, Sleep and Sex. Biological basis of emotion: The Limbic system, Hormonal regulation of behaviour. Genetics and behaviour: Chromosomal anomalies; Nature-Nurture controversy [Twin studies and adoption studies].

5. Attention, Perception, Learning, Memory and Forgetting

Attention: Forms of attention, Models of attention, Perception: Approaches to the Study of Perception: Gestalt and physiological approaches, Perceptual Organisation: Gestalt, Figure and Ground, Law of Organisation Perceptual Constancy: Size, Shape and Color; Illusions, Perception of Form, Depth and Movement Role of motivation and learning in perception.

Signal detection theory: Assumptions and applications, Subliminal perception and related factors, information processing approach to perception, culture and perception, perceptual styles, Pattern recognition, Ecological perspective on perception.

Learning Process: Fundamental theories: Thorndike, Guthrie, Hull, Classical conditioning: Procedure, phenomena and related issues, Instrumental learning: Phenomena, paradigms and theoretical issues; Reinforcement: Basic variables and schedules; Behaviour modification and its applications, Cognitive approaches in learning: Latent learning, observational learning. Verbal learning and Discrimination learning, Recent trends in learning: Neurophysiology of learning.

Memory and Forgetting, Memory processes: Encoding, Storage, Retrieval, Stages of memory: Sensory memory, Short-term memory (Working memory), Long-term memory (Declarative – Episodic and Semantic; Procedural). Theories of Forgetting: Interference, Retrieval Failure, Decay, Motivated forgetting.

6. Thinking, Intelligence and Creativity

Theoretical perspectives on thought processes: Associationism, Gestalt, Information processing, Feature integration model, Concept formation: Rules, Types and Strategies; Role of concepts in thinking; Types of Reasoning, Language and thought.

Problem solving: Type, Strategies and Obstacles, Decision-making: Types and models.

Metacognition: Metacognitive knowledge and Metacognitive regulation, Intelligence: Spearman; Thurstone; Jensen; Cattell; Gardner; Stenberg; Goleman; Das, Kar and Parrila; Creativity: Torrance, Getzels and Jackson, Guilford, Wallach and Kogan, Relationship between Intelligence and Creativity.

7. Personality, Motivation, Emotion, Stress and Coping

Determinants of personality: Biological and socio-cultural Approaches to the study of personality: Psychoanalytical, Neo-Freudian, Social learning, Trait and Type, Cognitive, Humanistic, Existential, Transpersonal psychology.

Other theories: Rotter's Locus of Control, Seligman's Explanatory styles, Kohlberg's theory of Moral development.

Basic motivational concepts: Instincts, Needs, Drives, Arousal, Incentives, Motivational Cycle. Approaches to the study of motivation: Psychoanalytical, Ethological, S-R Cognitive, Humanistic; Exploratory behaviour and curiosity, Zuckerman's Sensation seeking, Achievement, Affiliation and Power, Motivational Competence, Self-regulation, Flow. Emotions: Physiological correlates. Theories of emotions: James-Lange, Cannon-Bard, Schachter and Singer, Lazarus, Lindzey. Emotion regulation, Conflicts: Sources and types.

Stress and Coping: Concept, Models, Type A, B, C, D behaviours, Stress management strategies [Biofeedback, Music therapy, Breathing exercises, Progressive Muscular Relaxation, Guided Imagery, Mindfulness, Meditation, Yogasana, Stress Inoculation Training].

8. Social Psychology

Nature, scope and history of social psychology, Traditional theoretical perspectives: Field theory, Cognitive Dissonance, Sociobiology, Psychodynamic Approaches, Social Cognition.

Social perception [Communication, Attributions]; Attitude and its change within cultural context; Prosocial behaviour.

Group and social influence [Social facilitation; Social loafing]; Social influence [Conformity, Peer Pressure, Persuasion, Compliance, Obedience, Social Power, Reactance]. Aggression. Group dynamics, Leadership style and effectiveness. Theories of intergroup relations [Minimal Group Experiment and Social Identity Theory, Relative Deprivation Theory, Realistic Conflict Theory, Balance Theories, Equity Theory, Social Exchange Theory].

Applied social psychology: Health, Environment and Law; Personal space, crowding and territoriality.

9. Human Development and Interventions

Developmental processes: Nature, Principles, Factors in development, Stages of Development. Successful aging. Theories of development: Psychoanalytical, Behaviouristic and Cognitive various aspects of development: Sensory-motor, cognitive, language, emotional, social and moral.

Psychopathology: Concept, Mental Status Examination, Classification, Causes.

Psychotherapies: Psychoanalysis, Person-centered, Gestalt, Existential, Acceptance Commitment Therapy, Behaviour therapy, REBT, CBT, MBCT, Play therapy, Positive psychotherapy, Transactional Analysis, Dialectic behaviour therapy, Art therapy, Performing art therapy, Family therapy.

Applications of theories of motivation and learning in school, Factors in educational achievement Teacher effectiveness, Guidance in schools: Needs, organisational set up and techniques, Counselling: Process, skills and techniques.

10. Emerging Areas

Issues of Gender, Poverty, Disability and Migration: Cultural bias and discrimination. Stigma, Marginalisation and Social Suffering; Child Abuse and Domestic violence.

Peace psychology: Violence, non-violence, conflict resolution at macro level, role of media in conflict resolution.

Well-being and self-growth: Types of well-being [Hedonic and Eudemonic], Character strengths, Resilience and Post-Traumatic Growth.

Health: Health promoting and health compromising behaviours, Life style and Chronic diseases [Diabetes, Hypertension, Coronary Heart Disease], Psychoneuroimmunology [Cancer, HIV/AIDS].

Psychology and technology interface: Digital learning; Digital etiquette: Cyber bullying; Cyber pornography: Consumption, Implications; Parental mediation of digital usage.