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CSS Past Papers

Subject: Psychology

Year: 2026

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FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION-2026
FOR RECRUITMENT TO POSTS IN BS-17
UNDER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
CSS Psychology Paper 2026

Roll Number

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS	PART-I MCQS	MAXIMUM MARKS = 20
PART-I (MCQS): MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES	PART-II MCQS	MAXIMUM MARKS = 80
NOTE: 1. First attempt PART-I (MCQs) on separate OMR Answer Sheet which shall be taken back after 30 minutes. 2. Overwriting/cutting of the options/answers will not be given credit. 3. There is no negative marking. All MCQs must be attempted.		

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION-2026 FOR RECRUITMENT
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PSYCHOLOGY

Roll Number

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PART-I (MCQs) : MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES

(PART-I MCQs) MAXIMUM MARKS: 20

(PART-II) MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

NOTE: (i) First attempt PART-I (MCQs) on separate OMR Answer Sheet which shall be taken back after 30 minutes.

(ii) Overwriting/cutting of the options/answers will not be given credit.

(iii) There is no negative marking. All MCQs must be attempted.

PART-I (MCQs) (COMPULSORY)



- Q.1. (i) Select the best option/answer and fill in the appropriate Box ☐ in the OMR Answer Sheet, (20x1=20)**
(ii) Answers given anywhere else, other than OMR Answer Sheet, will not be considered.
- An employee performs better when observed by a supervisor. This effect is known as:**
 (A) Halo effect (B) Contrast effect (C) Observer bias (D) Hawthorne effect
 - A client experiencing mania interrupts frequently, speaks rapidly, and jumps between unrelated topics. This speech pattern is:**
 (A) Neologism (B) Flight of ideas (C) Thought insertion (D) Echolalia
 - A suspect confesses after 12 hours of interrogation but later recants, saying he was exhausted. This confession is likely:**
 (A) Instrumental-voluntary (B) Instrumental-coerced
 (C) Internalized-coerced (D) Internalized-voluntary
 - After a stroke, a patient speaks fluently but with meaningless content and cannot understand language. This suggests damage to:**
 (A) Broca's area (B) Cerebellum (C) Occipital cortex (D) Wernicke's area
 - A person's voluntary muscle movement becomes jerky despite normal autonomic function. This suggests a problem in the:**
 (A) Parasympathetic system (B) Enteric system (C) Somatic motor pathways (D) Limbic system
 - A runner hears distant footsteps in a quiet park and immediately perceives them as a threat. Which sensory-perceptual mechanism is most likely involved?**
 (A) Heightened absolute threshold due to alertness
 (B) Top-down processing shaped by motivation and expectation
 (C) Bottom-up sensory processing without cognitive influence (D) Gestalt principle of closure
 - While reading a graph, a viewer perceives a smooth trend despite data fluctuations. Which Gestalt Principle applies, and why is it cognitively useful?**
 (A) Continuity: facilitates pattern recognition (B) Proximity: clusters data points
 (C) Closure: completes missing values (D) Figure-ground: separates foreground from background
 - A worker notices that producing errors in data entry results in public criticism, while correct entries lead to silent acknowledgment. Over time, the worker avoids errors but does not increase productivity. Which combination of learning principles is demonstrated?**
 (A) Negative reinforcement + shaping (C) Observational learning + discrimination
 (B) Classical conditioning + extinction (D) Figure-ground; separates foreground from background
 (D) Positive punishment (avoiding errors) + absence of positive reinforcement (low motivation)
 - Canon-Bard Theory claims that emotional experience and arousal:**
 (A) Occur simultaneously (B) Follow a sequence (C) Are unrelated (D) Depend solely on cognition
 - Modern test theory is preferred over classical test theory because:**
 (A) It assumes fixed difficulty for all items (B) It ignores error variance
 (C) It models item-level probability and reduces sample dependence (D) It replaces norms entirely
 - A combination of inherited traits and early experiences best explains:**
 (A) Interactionist model of personality (B) Pure trait theory
 (C) Psychoanalytic theory only (D) Social learning theory only
 - A person attributes a friend's failure to laziness rather than situational factors. This reflects:**
 (A) Social facilitation (B) Self-serving bias (C) Actor-observer effect (D) Fundamental attribution error
 - A worker performs excellently on a routine task but poorly when asked to innovate. This reflects which distinction?**
 (A) Transformational vs. transactional leadership (B) Task vs. contextual performance
 (C) Occupational stress vs. burnout (D) Skill vs. trait intelligence
 - A toddler repeatedly drops toys from his crib to see if the parent will pick them up. This represents:**
 (A) Operant conditioning (B) Stranger anxiety (C) Circular reactions (D) None of these

NOTE:

- i. **Part-II** is to be attempted on the separate **Answer Book**.
- ii. Attempt **ALL** questions from **Part-II**.
- iii. All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places.
- iv. Write **Q.NO** in the **Answer Book** in according with **Q.No** in the **Q.Paper**.
- v. **No Page/Space** be left blank between the answers. All the blank pages of **Answer Book** must be crossed.
- vi. Extra attempt of any question or any part of the question will not be considered.

Q. No. 2. What are the main schools of psychology? How does each school explain human behavior in everyday life?

Q. No. 3. Discuss the major emerging trends in global psychology, such as neuroscience, cultural psychology, AI-driven psychology, and environmental psychology.

Q. No. 4. Elaborate on the techniques of personality assessment, including objective tests, projective techniques, behavioural assessment, and interviews. Compare their scientific merits.

Q. No. 5. Discuss different types of intelligence, with special emphasis on IQ and EQ. Evaluate their predictive validity for academic, occupational, and social success.

Q. No. 6. Analyze social development from childhood to old age. Discuss attachment, peer relationships, family influence, and social roles.

Q. No. 7. Explain the concept of obedience to authority with reference to Milgram's experiment. What ethical issues were raised, and how did this study shape future research ethics?

Q. No. 8. Write short notes on any FOUR of the following:

- (a) Neurotransmitter imbalance and its behavioural dysregulation.
- (b) Law of Prägnanz with real-world examples.
- (c) Classical Test Theory vs Modern Test Theory/Item Response Theory (IRT).
- (d) Spearman's g and s factors.
- (e) Components of attitude (ABC Model).

PSYCHOLOGY (2026)

15. A person walks into a dimly lit room and mistakes a coat on a chair for a person. Which perceptual determinant BEST explains this misinterpretation?
(A) Expectation and perceptual set; top-down processes override sensory input
(B) Absolute threshold; dim light prevents perception
(C) Gestalt closure; incomplete visual information is completed automatically
(D) Motion parallax; nearby objects appear faster
16. A person consistently forgets appointments unless they visualize them vividly. Which memory process is being leveraged?
(A) Procedural memory; skill-based memory (B) Rehearsal; rote repetition only
(C) Elaborative encoding (D) Classical conditioning; reflexive pairing from background
17. A person recognizes a face more easily than recalling the name associated with it. This illustrates a difference between:
(A) Procedural vs. declarative memory (B) Recognition vs. recall
(C) Working memory vs. sensory memory (D) None of these
18. Bandura's Bobo doll study supports:
(A) Observational learning in personality development (B) Cultural Mechanism and development
(C) Observational learning + discrimination (D) None of these
19. The "glass ceiling" refers to:
(A) Transformational leadership (B) Job enrichment techniques (C) HCI interface issues
(D) Invisible barriers preventing career advancement for women/minorities
20. A client blames himself for a divorce, using broad statements like "I fail at everything." This MOST reflects:
(A) Projection (B) Overgeneralization (C) Displacement (D) Dichotomous thinking

PART-II



Legalversity

- NOTE: (i)** Part-II is to be attempted on the separate Answer Book.
(ii) Attempt **ONLY FOUR** questions from **PART-II**. ALL questions carry **EQUAL** marks.
(iii) All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places.
(iv) Write Q. No. in the Answer Book in accordance with Q. No. in the Q.Paper.
(v) No Page/Space be left blank between the answers. All the blank pages of Answer Book must be crossed.
(vi) Extra attempt of any question or any part of the question will not be considered.

- Q. No. 2.** What are the main schools of psychology? How does each school explain human behavior in everyday life? (20)
- Q. No. 3.** Discuss the major emerging trends in global psychology, such as neuroscience, cultural psychology, AI-driven psychology, and environmental psychology. (20)
- Q. No. 4.** Elaborate the techniques of personality assessment, including objective tests, projective techniques, behavioural assessment, and interviews. Compare their scientific merits. (20)
- Q. No. 5.** Discuss different types of intelligence, with special emphasis on IQ and EQ. Evaluate their predictive validity for academic, occupational, and social success. (20)
- Q. No. 6.** Analyze social development from childhood to old age. Discuss attachment, peer relationships, family influence, and social roles. (20)
- Q. No. 7.** Explain the concept of obedience to authority with reference to Milgram's experiment. What ethical issues were raised, and how did this study shape future research ethics? (20)
- Q. No. 8.** Write short notes on any **FOUR** of the following. (5 each) (20)
(a) Neurotransmitter imbalance and its behavioural dysregulation.
(b) Law of Prägnanz with real-world examples.
(c) Classical Test Theory vs Modern Test Theory/Item Response Theory (IRT).
(d) Spearman's g and s factors.
(e) Components of attitude (ABC Model).
