

Introduction to Parapsychology

Psychology · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which term is used in parapsychology to describe the alleged ability to acquire information about an object or person without the use of known sensory channels?

- A) Psychokinesis
- B) Extrasensory perception**
- C) Apparitional experience
- D) Precognition

2. What is the primary reason the scientific community generally classifies parapsychology as a pseudoscience?

- A) The lack of reproducible results under controlled laboratory conditions**
- B) It is purely a branch of theology
- C) The research is prohibited by international law
- D) It focuses exclusively on computer simulations

3. Who is often credited with helping to bring the study of psychical research into American academia by founding the Harvard Laboratory for Psychical Research?

- A) William James**
- B) Sigmund Freud
- C) B.F. Skinner
- D) Carl Jung

4. In parapsychological research, what does the term 'Ganzfeld effect' refer to?

- A) A technique used to detect fraud in mediumship
- B) A sensory deprivation procedure used to test for telepathy**
- C) A statistical method for calculating probability
- D) A device for measuring electromagnetic fluctuations

5. What is the definition of 'psychokinesis' (PK) within the study of parapsychology?

- A) The ability to communicate with the deceased
- B) The direct influence of mind on a physical system without physical energy**
- C) The perception of future events before they occur
- D) The involuntary movement of objects during sleep

6. Which professional organization was established in 1957 to advance the scientific study of psychic phenomena?

- A) The American Psychological Association
- B) The Parapsychological Association**
- C) The Society for Psychical Research
- D) The Institute for Noetic Sciences

7. What is the 'file drawer effect' in the context of parapsychology research?

- A) The storage of physical evidence in secure locations
- B) The tendency for researchers to only publish positive results while hiding negative ones**
- C) A method for organizing historical documents
- D) The systematic cataloging of eyewitness accounts

8. The study of 'near-death experiences' (NDEs) is often categorized under parapsychology; what does the term 'out-of-body experience' (OBE) typically imply?

- A) The sensation of drifting outside one's physical body**
- B) The loss of motor control during a seizure
- C) The ability to project thoughts into another person's mind
- D) The clinical death of a patient followed by resuscitation

9. In statistical parapsychology, what does 'p-value' typically represent when evaluating claims of psychic phenomena?

- A) The distance between two participants
- B) The probability that the observed results occurred by chance**
- C) The speed at which a psychic process occurs
- D) The number of participants in the study

10. Which famous stage magician and skeptic was known for debunking many claims made by self-proclaimed psychics in the 20th century?

- A) Harry Houdini**
- B) David Copperfield
- C) Penn Jillette
- D) Derren Brown

11. What is 'precognition' in the field of parapsychology?

- A) The knowledge of an event that has already occurred
- B) The awareness of a future event that could not be deduced by normal means**
- C) The ability to read past lives
- D) The physical healing of wounds by touch

12. What is the objective of the 'Zener cards' used in early experimental parapsychology?

- A) To test for visual acuity
- B) To measure reaction time
- C) To conduct controlled testing of extrasensory perception**
- D) To identify cognitive biases in memory