

Scientific Perspectives on Parapsychology

Parapsychology · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which experimental protocol, famously championed by Joseph Banks Rhine at Duke University in the 1930s, utilized a specific deck of cards to test for extrasensory perception?

- A) The Ganzfeld experiment
- B) The Zener card test
- C) The remote viewing protocol
- D) The sheep-goat effect study

2. In modern parapsychology, what does the term 'Ganzfeld' refer to in the context of sensory deprivation research?

- A) A method of inducing hypnotic suggestion
- B) A technique involving homogeneous visual and auditory stimulation
- C) A statistical analysis tool for meta-analysis
- D) A physiological measurement of bio-electromagnetic fields

3. What is the primary critique leveled by skeptics against the 'psi' results reported in the 1994 Bem and Honorton meta-analysis of Ganzfeld studies?

- A) Lack of randomization in participant selection
- B) Failure to replicate under stringent pre-registered protocols
- C) Inconsistent use of the Zener deck
- D) Bias in the selection of published versus unpublished data

4. Which major scientific organization, founded in 1976, is primarily dedicated to investigating paranormal claims from a scientific and evidence-based perspective?

- A) The Parapsychological Association
- B) The Committee for Skeptical Inquiry
- C) The Rhine Research Center
- D) The Society for Psychical Research

5. The 'Sheep-Goat Effect,' a concept coined by Gertrude Schmeidler, proposes that performance in ESP tasks correlates with what variable?

- A) Age and education level
- B) A participant's belief in the existence of psi
- C) The participant's physiological stress levels
- D) Gender-based cognitive differences

6. What is the 'file drawer problem' in the context of parapsychological meta-analyses?

- A) The tendency to exclude studies with negative results from the literature
- B) The physical inability to access historical experimental data
- C) The loss of original data files from early 20th-century studies
- D) The mislabeling of raw data by research assistants

7. The 'Project Star Gate,' a classified US military program, was primarily concerned with researching which phenomenon?

- A) Near-death experiences
- B) Remote viewing
- C) Psychokinesis on electronic circuitry
- D) Reincarnation memory

8. Which statistical phenomenon describes why rare, unexplained events are often mistakenly attributed to paranormal causes by the human brain?

- A) Regression to the mean
- B) The Law of Truly Large Numbers
- C) The gambler's fallacy
- D) Confirmation bias

9. What was the primary scientific conclusion regarding the 1970s investigations into Uri Geller's alleged psychokinetic abilities at the Stanford Research Institute?

- A) His abilities were validated by double-blind testing
- B) His results were attributed to stage magic techniques and trickery
- C) The results were deemed inconclusive due to instrumentation error
- D) The SRI researchers concluded he possessed unique physical properties

10. In parapsychology, what is defined as the 'declining effect' or 'decline effect'?

- A) The reduction in statistical significance as experimental protocols become more rigorous
- B) The tendency for psychic ability to vanish as a subject ages
- C) The decrease in popularity of parapsychology in academia
- D) The loss of interest by participants in long-term studies

11. What is the 'White Crow' strategy often cited by proponents of parapsychology?

- A) The search for a single verifiable case to disprove the universal impossibility of psi
- B) The use of white-noise generators to detect anomalous energy
- C) The requirement for at least one skeptical observer in every trial
- D) The belief that psychic phenomena only occur in laboratory settings

12. Which psychological concept is frequently used to explain the 'Cold Reading' technique often mistaken for genuine psychic ability?

- A) The Barnum Effect
- B) The Dunning-Kruger Effect
- C) The bystander effect
- D) The phantom limb phenomenon

13. The term 'Psi' was introduced by psychologist Berthold Eric Schwarz and popularized by Robert Thouless to encompass what?

- A) Only telepathic communication
- B) Both ESP and psychokinesis
- C) The subconscious mind's ability to heal
- D) The study of near-death experiences

14. What rigorous standard, now common in clinical trials, is frequently cited as missing or poorly implemented in historical parapsychology studies?

- A) Informed consent
- B) Pre-registration of hypotheses
- C) Open-peer review
- D) The placebo effect

15. Which prominent physicist co-authored 'The Physical Review' paper that investigated the remote viewing claims of Targ and Puthoff, subsequently facing severe criticism for methodological flaws?

- A) Richard Feynman
- B) Harold Puthoff
- C) Edwin May
- D) Ray Hyman