

Robert Havighurst's Developmental Tasks Theory

Developmental Psychology · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the core concept of Havighurst's Developmental Tasks Theory?

- A) A fixed set of life stages
- B) Tasks that arise at specific life periods, with successful achievement leading to happiness and future success**
- C) Purely biologically determined developmental milestones
- D) Socially imposed expectations without regard for individual motivation

2. According to Havighurst, what leads to unhappiness and difficulty with later tasks?

- A) Successfully completing all early developmental tasks
- B) Not being exposed to societal demands
- C) Failure to achieve a developmental task**
- D) Focusing too much on personal values

3. What is a 'teachable moment' in Havighurst's theory?

- A) Any moment when a person feels like learning
- B) A period when the body is ready, society expects it, and the individual is motivated to learn a specific skill**
- C) A time when formal education is compulsory
- D) A period of intense social pressure to achieve

4. Which of the following is NOT one of the three sources of developmental tasks?

- A) Physical Maturation
- B) Societal Pressures and Cultural Expectations
- C) Personal Values and Aspirations
- D) Random chance**

5. Learning to walk and talk in infancy is an example of a developmental task stemming from which source?

- A) Societal Pressures
- B) Personal Values
- C) Physical Maturation**
- D) Cultural Expectations

6. Learning how to read and calculate, as part of compulsory schooling, is an example of a task influenced by:

- A) Physical Maturation
- B) Societal Pressures and Cultural Expectations**
- C) Personal Values and Aspirations
- D) Individual goals

7. Formulating a political or spiritual philosophy of life is an example of a developmental task influenced by:

- A) Physical Maturation
- B) Societal Pressures
- C) Personal Values and Aspirations**
- D) Cultural norms

8. Havighurst's theory views human development as:

- A) A passive process
- B) A series of random events
- C) A lifelong process of active adaptation**
- D) Primarily determined by genetics

9. The characteristic of Havighurst's theory that states mastery of lower-stage tasks is necessary for higher-stage tasks is:

- A) Culturally Relative
- B) Active Adaptation
- C) Sequential and Cumulative**
- D) Bio-psycho-social

10. Havighurst acknowledged that societal and personal tasks vary across different cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds, indicating the theory is:

- A) Sequentially cumulative
- B) Culturally Relative**
- C) Biologically determined
- D) Universally applicable

11. What is a modern critique of Havighurst's theory regarding timelines?

- A) The timelines are too flexible
- B) The model assumes a rigid, traditional life trajectory that doesn't fit modern life**
- C) The timelines are not specific enough
- D) The theory ignores the importance of timelines

12. A critique of Havighurst's theory points to a potential bias influenced by:

- A) Modern scientific advancements
- B) The mid-20th-century middle-class American lifestyle**
- C) Globalized economic systems
- D) Universal human rights movements

13. The theory bridges the gap between individual organic needs and what else?

- A) Personal desires
- B) Societal demands**
- C) Biological imperatives
- D) Abstract philosophical concepts

14. What is the primary field where Havighurst's Developmental Tasks Theory is foundational?

- A) Sociology
- B) Anthropology
- C) Developmental Psychology and Education**
- D) Economics

15. According to Havighurst, what is the result of trying to force a task before the 'teachable moment'?

- A) Accelerated development
- B) Increased motivation
- C) Frustration and developmental friction**
- D) Immediate success

16. Adjusting to changing body shapes and hormone shifts during adolescence is an example of a task driven by:

- A) Societal expectations
- B) Personal aspirations
- C) Physical maturation**
- D) Cultural timelines

17. Learning how to vote and act as a responsible citizen is an example of a task influenced by:

- A) Physical maturation
- B) Personal values
- C) Societal pressures and cultural expectations**
- D) Individual goals

18. Choosing a specific vocational path is an example of a task driven by:

- A) Physical maturation
- B) Societal demands
- C) Personal values and aspirations**
- D) Cultural norms

19. The theory suggests that mastery of earlier tasks provides the necessary 'psychological capital' for tackling later phases, illustrating its nature as:

- A) Culturally relative
- B) Active adaptation
- C) Sequential and cumulative**
- D) Bio-psycho-social

20. How does Havighurst position the human being in relation to their development?

- A) As a passive recipient of external forces
- B) As an active agent striving for competence and harmony**
- C) As a product of solely biological factors
- D) As a creature of societal dictates