

Foundational Concepts in Parapsychology

Parapsychology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which of the following is the most widely accepted term for paranormal mental abilities such as telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition?

- A) Psychokinesis
- B) Psi phenomena
- C) Subliminal perception
- D) Extrasensory Perception (ESP)**

2. The Ganzfeld experiment, a prominent method in parapsychology research, is primarily designed to investigate which psi phenomenon?

- A) Psychokinesis
- B) Telepathy**
- C) Reincarnation
- D) Mediumship

3. Who is often credited with coining the term 'psi' in the context of paranormal phenomena?

- A) J.B. Rhine**
- B) Sigmund Freud
- C) Carl Jung
- D) Albert Einstein

4. What is the term used to describe the alleged ability to influence physical objects or systems with the mind alone?

- A) Telepathy
- B) Clairvoyance
- C) Psychokinesis (PK)**
- D) Precognition

5. The Zener card experiments, historically significant in parapsychology, involved subjects attempting to identify cards with which symbols?

- A) Letters of the alphabet
- B) Numbers
- C) Geometric shapes**
- D) Playing card suits

6. Which famous physicist, known for his theories on relativity, publicly expressed interest and wrote about the possibility of psychic phenomena?

- A) Isaac Newton
- B) Albert Einstein**
- C) Nikola Tesla
- D) Max Planck

7. The Society for Psychical Research (SPR) was founded in which year?

- A) 1882**
- B) 1901
- C) 1895
- D) 1914

8. What is a common criticism leveled against parapsychological research regarding its statistical findings?

- A) Over-reliance on qualitative data
- B) Lack of replicability and potential for publication bias**
- C) Insufficient sample sizes
- D) Absence of controlled experimental conditions

9. The concept of 'survival' in parapsychology refers to the investigation of what?

- A) The ability to influence biological processes
- B) The persistence of consciousness after bodily death**
- C) The origins of psychic abilities
- D) The nature of altered states of consciousness

10. Which of the following is NOT a recognized category of psi phenomena commonly studied in parapsychology?

- A) Telepathy
- B) Psychokinesis
- C) Astrology**
- D) Clairvoyance

11. The 'sheep-goat' effect, observed in some parapsychological studies, suggests that belief or disbelief in psi can influence experimental results. 'Goats' are defined as participants who:

- A) Believe in psi phenomena
- B) Are skeptical of psi phenomena**
- C) Are undecided about psi phenomena
- D) Have demonstrated psi abilities previously

12. What is the primary challenge in establishing the scientific validity of psychokinesis (PK)?

- A) Difficulty in obtaining statistically significant results
- B) The apparent randomness and unpredictability of PK effects**
- C) Ethical concerns regarding the manipulation of objects
- D) Lack of theoretical models to explain PK mechanisms

13. Which historical figure, a psychologist and philosopher, is known for his extensive research into psychic phenomena and his book 'Psychical Research and the Survival of Death'?

- A) William James**
- B) B.F. Skinner
- C) Ivan Pavlov
- D) Alfred Adler

14. The PEAR (Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research) laboratory, active for many years, focused its research primarily on:

- A) Telepathic communication between humans and animals
- B) The influence of human consciousness on random number generators (RNGs)**
- C) Investigating remote viewing capabilities
- D) Testing the accuracy of precognitive dreams

15. What does the term 'micro-PK' refer to in parapsychological research?

- A) Psychokinesis on large, macroscopic objects
- B) Subtle, difficult-to-detect influences on microscopic systems or random processes**
- C) The ability to move very small objects mentally
- D) The mental influence over microscopic biological organisms

16. The alleged phenomenon of 'remote viewing' involves:

- A) Mentally influencing distant electronic devices
- B) Perceiving information about a distant or unseen target using non-sensory means**
- C) The ability to travel to distant locations in a projected state
- D) Communicating with spirits of the deceased remotely

17. Which of these is a key consideration in the methodology of parapsychological research to avoid sensory leakage?

- A) Using double-blind procedures**
- B) Employing large sample sizes
- C) Analyzing statistical significance
- D) Ensuring the experimenter's subjective bias is removed

18. The term 'fallacy of the single cause' is relevant to parapsychology in that it warns against:

A) Attributing a psi effect to a single experimental condition without considering other factors

B) Assuming that only one type of psi phenomenon can exist

C) Concluding that a statistically significant result is due to chance alone

D) Believing that all purported psychic experiences are genuine