

Foundations of Developmental Psychology

Developmental Psychology · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which of Jean Piaget's stages of cognitive development is primarily characterized by the emergence of abstract thinking and hypothetical-deductive reasoning?

- A) Sensorimotor stage
- B) Preoperational stage
- C) Concrete operational stage
- D) Formal operational stage**

2. In the context of language acquisition, what is the 'critical period hypothesis' primarily concerned with?

- A) The decline of vocabulary in old age
- B) The ideal time window for acquiring native-level fluency in a language**
- C) The development of syntax before semantics in toddlers
- D) The relationship between memory and speech speed

3. Which brain structure, responsible for regulating emotional responses and memory, undergoes significant pruning and remodeling during adolescence?

- A) Brainstem
- B) Prefrontal cortex
- C) Amygdala**
- D) Occipital lobe

4. According to Erik Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, which conflict must an individual resolve during the 'Industry vs. Inferiority' stage?

- A) Developing a sense of competence in productive skills**
- B) Establishing an identity and sense of self
- C) Learning to trust primary caregivers
- D) Forming intimate and loving relationships

5. What is the primary function of the myelin sheath as it develops in the adolescent brain?

- A) To increase the speed of electrical impulses between neurons**
- B) To facilitate the production of neurotransmitters
- C) To protect the skull from physical trauma
- D) To store long-term memories in the hippocampus

6. Lev Vygotsky coined the term 'Zone of Proximal Development' to describe the distance between:

- A) Physical growth and cognitive ability
- B) What a learner can do alone and what they can do with guidance**
- C) The stages of infancy and early childhood
- D) The development of verbal and non-verbal communication

7. Which type of temperament, as identified by Thomas and Chess, is characterized by withdrawal from new experiences, slow adaptability, and intense negative moods?

- A) Easy temperament
- B) Difficult temperament**
- C) Slow-to-warm-up temperament
- D) Avoidant temperament

8. The process of 'synaptic pruning' during brain development serves which primary biological purpose?

- A) Increasing the overall volume of the brain
- B) Removing unused neural connections to improve processing efficiency**
- C) Creating new neurons in the cerebral cortex
- D) Repairing damaged areas of the nervous system