# Advanced Developmental Psychology

Developmental Psychology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

**1. Which brain structure is primarily responsible for the rapid increase in synaptic pruning during adolescence?**

**A) Prefrontal cortex**
B) Amygdala
C) Cerebellum
D) Hippocampus

**2. In Piagetian theory, which specific cognitive achievement marks the transition into the formal operational stage?**

A) Object permanence
B) Conservation of volume
**C) Hypothetico-deductive reasoning**
D) Centration

**3. According to the epigenetic landscape model proposed by Conrad Waddington, what does the 'canalization' of a trait refer to?**

**A) The tendency of development to follow a specific path despite environmental variation**
B) The rapid mutation of genes during prenatal development
C) The influence of socio-economic status on IQ
D) The process of neuronal migration in the fetal brain

**4. What is the primary finding of the 'A-not-B error' task in infants, originally described by Jean Piaget?**

A) Failure to use language to identify objects
B) Lack of object permanence under conditions of high stimulation
**C) The tendency to reach for an object where it was previously found rather than where it was last hidden**
D) Inability to distinguish between self and caregiver

**5. Which hormone is most strongly implicated in the onset of the 'pubertal growth spurt' through the stimulation of IGF-1?**

A) Thyroxine
**B) Growth Hormone**
C) Cortisol
D) Oxytocin

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**6. According to James Marcia's identity status theory, which stage is characterized by high levels of exploration but low levels of commitment?**

A) Identity diffusion
B) Identity foreclosure
**C) Moratorium**
D) Identity achievement

**7. What is the 'visual cliff' experiment, designed by Gibson and Walk, intended to measure?**

**A) Depth perception in infants**
B) Object permanence
C) Facial recognition
D) Auditory processing

**8. In the context of language development, what does the 'Wug Test' designed by Jean Berko Gleason demonstrate?**

A) The ability of children to learn semantic categories
**B) The acquisition of implicit grammatical rules for inflectional morphology**
C) The impact of maternal speech patterns on vocabulary size
D) The neurological basis of stuttering

**9. The 'theory of mind' is typically assessed in children using which classic experimental paradigm?**

A) The Strange Situation
**B) The False-Belief Task**
C) The Mirror Test
D) The Bobo Doll Experiment

**10. According to Erik Erikson, which psychosocial crisis corresponds to the period of 'Middle Adulthood'?**

A) Intimacy vs. Isolation
**B) Generativity vs. Stagnation**
C) Integrity vs. Despair
D) Identity vs. Role Confusion

**11. What is the term for the brain's ability to reorganize itself by forming new neural connections throughout life, particularly following injury?**

A) Neurogenesis
B) Synaptic pruning
**C) Neuroplasticity**
D) Myelination

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**12. According to Vygotsky's 'Zone of Proximal Development', what is the role of the 'More Knowledgeable Other'?**

A) To provide direct instruction on complex tasks
B) To observe the child without intervention
**C) To bridge the gap between what a learner can do alone and what they can do with guidance**
D) To measure the child's genetic potential

**13. What does the 'Ainsworth Strange Situation' classify in relation to infant-caregiver attachment?**

A) Cognitive developmental delay
**B) Patterns of attachment based on separation and reunion**
C) Temperament consistency
D) Social learning capacity

**14. Which of the following best describes the 'Flynn Effect' in developmental intelligence research?**

A) The decline of fluid intelligence in late adulthood
**B) The observed rise in IQ scores over the 20th century**
C) The correlation between nutrition and brain volume
D) The genetic inheritance of personality traits

**15. At what approximate age do children typically develop 'phonological awareness'--the ability to identify individual sounds in spoken words?**

A) 1-2 years
**B) 3-5 years**
C) 7-9 years
D) 11-13 years

**16. The 'Mirror Test' (Gallup, 1970) is used to investigate the development of which psychological concept?**

A) Theory of mind
**B) Self-recognition**
C) Object permanence
D) Empathy

**17. In the study of temperament, what are the three categories proposed by Thomas and Chess?**

**A) Easy, difficult, slow-to-warm-up**
B) Introvert, extrovert, ambivert
C) Secure, insecure, avoidant
D) Active, passive, reactive

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**18. Which neurotransmitter, when depleted, is most significantly associated with age-related cognitive decline in the basal ganglia?**

A) Serotonin

**B) Dopamine**

C) GABA

D) Glutamate

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