Advanced Developmental Psychology

Developmental Psychology · Practice Test · 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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