

PSG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE
(AUTONOMOUS)
MSc DEGREE EXAMINATION MAY 2025
(First Semester)

Branch - APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

Time: Three Hours

Maximum: 75 Marks

SECTION-A (10 Marks)

Answer ALL questions

ALL questions carry EQUAL marks

(10 × 1 = 10)

Module No.	Question No.	Question	K Level	CO
1	1	A key characteristic distinguishing modern personality theories from early psychoanalysis is: a) Complete rejection of unconscious processes b) Greater emphasis on empirical research and testability c) Exclusive focus on observable behaviour d) Ignoring the role of childhood experiences	K2	CO1
	2	An individual consistently channels their aggressive impulses into becoming a highly successful, competitive surgeon. According to Freud, this best exemplifies: a) Reaction Formation b) Projection c) Sublimation d) Rationalization	K1	CO1
2	3	Jung's concept of the 'Shadow' archetype primarily represents: a) The feminine aspects within the male psyche b) The drive for social conformity c) The inherited potential for wisdom and guidance d) The repressed, darker, and socially unacceptable aspects of the personality	K1	CO2
	4	Both Adler and Horney moved away from Freud's emphasis on biological drives. A key difference in their focus was: a) Adler emphasized social interest; Horney emphasized basic anxiety b) Adler focused on archetypes; Horney focused on birth order c) Adler emphasized psychosexual stages; Horney emphasized ego defenses d) Adler focused on anxiety; Horney focused on striving for superiority	K2	CO2
3	5	Skinner argued that concepts like "personality traits" are unnecessary explanatory fictions because: a) They cannot be directly observed or measured b) Behaviour is primarily determined by environmental contingencies c) Cognitive processes are the true determinants of behaviour d) Both a and b are central to Skinner's argument	K1	CO3
	6	According to Bandura's concept of self-efficacy, a student's belief in their ability to succeed in a challenging course is most likely to be decreased by: a) Observing a peer successfully complete the course b) Receiving verbal encouragement from a professor c) Successfully completing a slightly less challenging course. d) Experiencing repeated failures despite significant effort	K2	CO3
4	7	Which statement best captures the difference between Roger's 'ideal self' and 'real self'? a) The ideal self is based on societal expectations; the real self is based on organismic valuing b) The ideal self reflects future goals; the real self reflects past experiences c) Congruence occurs when the real self aligns with external judgments d) The ideal self is innate; the real self is learned	K1	CO4
	8	Allport's concept of 'functional autonomy' suggests that: a) Adult motives are always directly traceable to childhood origins b) Traits are primarily determined by genetic factors c) Adult motives can become independent of their original developmental source d) Personality is fixed by adolescence	K2	CO4

Cont...

5	9	A central tenet differentiating the Hindu concept of 'Atman' from the Buddhist concept of 'Anatta' is: a) The belief in reincarnation b) The emphasis on ethical conduct c) The existence of an eternal, unchanging Self vs. the doctrine of no-self d) The importance of meditation practices	K1	CO5
	10	Sufism's emphasis on 'Tawakkul' (trust in God) primarily relates to personality by fostering: a) Increased ego-centric striving b) A sense of detachment from outcomes and reduced anxiety c) Avoidance of social interaction d) Denial of personal responsibility	K2	CO5

SECTION - B (35 Marks)

Answer ALL questions

ALL questions carry EQUAL Marks

(5 × 7 = 35)

Module No.	Question No.	Question	K Level	CO
1	11.a.	Analyze how Freud's concept of psychosexual stages (focusing on fixation) attempts to explain the development of specific adult personality traits. Discuss the limitations of this developmental model from a contemporary perspective.	K4	CO1
		(OR)		
	11.b.	Critically evaluate the role and function of the Ego in mediating between the Id, Superego, and external reality according to psychoanalytic theory. How might an overly strong or weak Ego manifest in personality functioning?		
2	12.a.	Compare and contrast Jung's concept of 'Individuation' with Adler's concept of 'Striving for Superiority/Perfection'. How does each theory conceptualize optimal personality development and the integration of different aspects of the psyche?	K4	CO2
		(OR)		
	12.b.	Analyze Erikson's stage of 'Identity vs. Role Confusion'. Discuss the importance of resolving this crisis for adolescent personality development and explain potential negative outcomes (e.g., identity diffusion, negative identity) if the crisis is not successfully navigated.		
3	13.a.	Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of applying Skinner's principles of operant conditioning to explain the complexity of human personality. Does this approach adequately account for internal thoughts, feelings, and choices? Justify your answer.	K5	CO3
		(OR)		
	13.b.	Apply Bandura's concepts of observational learning and self-efficacy to explain how a person might develop a specific phobia (e.g., fear of dogs) without direct negative experience. How might these same principles be used in therapy to overcome the phobia?		
4	14.a.	Analyze the core conditions (empathy, unconditional positive regard, genuineness) proposed by Rogers as necessary for therapeutic change and personality growth. How might the absence of these conditions in significant relationships hinder self-actualization?	K4	CO4
		(OR)		
	14.b.	Compare Cattell's use of factor analysis to identify source traits with Allport's emphasis on the unique organization of traits within an individual (idiographic approach). What are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach in understanding personality structure?		
5	15.a.	Analyze how the concepts of Karma and Samsara in the Hindu tradition provide a framework for understanding individual differences in personality, life circumstances, and the motivation for spiritual growth across lifetimes.	K4	CO5
		(OR)		
	15.b.	Analyze the implications of the Buddhist concept of 'Anatta' (no-self) for understanding personality. If there is no permanent self, how does this perspective account for continuity of experience and moral responsibility? How does this differ fundamentally from Western notions of a stable personality core?		

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SECTION -C (30 Marks)

Answer ANY THREE questions

ALL questions carry EQUAL Marks

(3 × 10 = 30)

Module No.	Question No.	Question	K Level	CO
1	16	Synthesize the core contributions of psychoanalysis (Freud) and neo-analytic theories (e.g., Jung, Adler, Horney) to the study of personality. Evaluate the extent to which neo-analytic revisions successfully addressed the limitations of classical Freudian theory while retaining its valuable insights into unconscious processes and early experiences.	K5	CO1, CO2
2	17	Critically evaluate the concept of archetypes as proposed by Carl Jung. Discuss the evidence for and against their existence, their proposed role in shaping personality and collective human experience, and the challenges in studying them empirically.	K3	CO2
3	18	Compare and contrast the cognitive perspectives on personality offered by Albert Bandura (Social Cognitive Theory) and Aaron Beck (Cognitive Therapy). Discuss their respective views on the role of thoughts, beliefs, and self-perception in shaping personality and influencing psychological well-being/distress.	K5	CO3
4	19	Evaluate the contributions and limitations of the Trait approach (e.g., Allport, Cattell, Big Five) to understanding personality. Does this approach provide a complete picture of personality, or does it neglect important aspects like development, motivation, and the dynamic interplay between person and situation? Justify your position.	K5	CO4
5	20	Synthesize insights from Hindu, Buddhist, and Sufi traditions regarding the nature of the 'self', the sources of psychological suffering/distress, and the pathways to psychological well-being or spiritual realization. How might these Eastern/Mystical perspectives complement or challenge mainstream Western personality theories?	K5	CO5

Z-Z-Z END

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