

ISC Class 12 Psychology Syllabus for 2023

PSYCHOLOGY (855)

CLASS XII

There will be **two** papers in the subject:

Paper I - Theory: 3 hours ...70 marks

Paper II- Practical Work:

...30 marks

PAPER - I (THEORY) - 70 Marks

SECTION A

1. Intelligence and Ability

(i) Intelligence: what is meant by intelligence - theories regarding the nature of intelligence; how intelligence is measured - the concept of IQ, intelligence tests — Individual Tests, Group Tests. Levels of intelligence and associated characteristics. Emotional Intelligence (EQ).

Intelligence: definition of intelligence (David Wechsler); what is meant by intelligence. Theories of Intelligence: Two Factor Theory - Charles Spearman; Primary Mental Abilities – L.L. Thurstone (seven factors); Ravmond Cattell - Fluid and Crystallised Intelligence. Modern Theories: Information Processing; Triarchic Theory – Sternberg; Theory of Multiple Intelligence - Howard intelligences). How Gardner (eight intelligence is measured - the concept of IQ; Intelligence Tests – Individual Tests – Wechsler-3, Group Tests – Raven's Progressive Matrices. Test details (Aim, history, description, scoring and uses) should be included; Levels of intelligence and associated characteristics (from gifted to below average). Emotional Intelligence (EQ) - Characteristics of Emotionally Intelligent Persons (in brief).

(ii) Aptitude, Achievement and Interest: meaning of these terms. Reason for their assessment and means of aptitude assessment (different tools/ tests) used.

What is meant by Aptitude - when aptitude needs to be assessed - the GATB (General Aptitude Test Battery); meaning and usefulness of Achievement tests; Why Interest is measured?

2. Personality

- (i) What is meant by Personality.Definition of personality Allport.
- (ii) Theories of Personality: Type Theories, Psychoanalytic Theory Freud's structure of personality; psycho-sexual stages of development; Post Freudians (in brief); Humanistic Rogers and Maslow; Traits Allport, Cattell; Social Cognitive Theory—Bandura.

Type Theory: Sheldon, Hippocrates, Psychoanalytic Theory of Personality: Freud's levels of consciousness, structure of personality - Id, Ego and Superego; principles on which they function; Psychosexual stages of development and fixation: defense mechanismsrationalisation. projection, reaction formation, regression. repression. displacement, sublimation (each to be briefly explained); Post Freudians: Erik Erikson, Horney; Humanistic theories of Rogers (concept of fully functioning persons) and Maslow (self actualization). Traits: Allport (central, secondary and cardinal traits), Cattell (source and surface traits). The fivefactor model of Costa and McCrae. Social Cognition theory of Bandura (Identification and explanation of concepts in the theoretical framework).

(iii) How personality is assessed: reports, inventories (MMPI), projective techniques - Rorschach Inkblot Test and Thematic Apperception Test, Behavioural Analysis.



The use of Self Reports - inventories/ questionnaires in assessing Personality - an understanding of the MMPI (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory); what is meant by Projective Techniques - how the Rorschach Inkblot and TAT (Thematic Apperception Test) are used (Test details should include procedure, scoring and results).

Behavioural Analysis: Interview, Observation, Nomination, Behavioural ratings, Situational tests (in brief).

SECTION B

3. Lifespan Development

(i) Meaning of Development, growth and maturation.

Why is the study of lifespan development important? Context of development – Bronfenbrenner's Ecological System Theory.

(ii) Infancy - motor, cognitive development, socio-emotional development.

Motor Development – definition of motor milestone, reflexes- rooting, moro, grasping, babinski; cognitive development – Piaget's Sensory Motor Stage; socio-emotional development – attachment (definition). Mary Ainsworth's & Lamb's strange situation test (four patterns of attachment).

(iii) Childhood - motor, cognitive development and moral development.

Motor development- gross motor and fine motor skills (definitions only); cognitive development Piaget's **Theory** (Preoperational and Concrete). Moral development – Kohlberg's perspective Experiment on Moral Dilemma – preconventional, conventional and post conventional morality.

(iv) Adolescence - physical changes, cognitive development; some major concerns.

Physical changes at puberty (in brief); Cognitive development — Piaget's Formal Operational Stage; Some major concerns substance abuse (drugs and alcohol) meaning of substance abuse and symptoms of drug abuse and alcoholism; eating disorders - bulimia, anorexia (meaning and symptoms).

4. Stress and Stress Management

(i) Meaning of stress - its basic nature.

Strain and Eustress; Stress as a process - stressors (negative and positive events); the stages of GAS or the General Adaptation Syndrome (Selye's model). Cognitive appraisal of stress – primary and secondary.

(ii) Common causes of stress.

External/situational: major life events, minor hassles of everyday life, work-related causes, the physical environment.

Internal/dispositional: Personality variablestraits and types.

(iii) Effects of stress on health.

Upsets the internal mechanism and balance - immune system affected, hypertension, heart problems, ulcers, diabetes, asthma (each effect to be briefly explained). Burnout- work related burnout.

(iv) Stress management - effective strategies of handling stress.

Effective strategies - relaxation training and yoga.

Promoting positive health and well-being: Exercise, Diet, Self-Care, Life Skills, Assertiveness, Rational thinking, improving relationships, overcoming unhelpful habits, Social support, Stress Resistant Personality, Positive thinking and positive attitude.

5. Psychological Disorders and Psychotherapy

(i) Meaning of "Abnormal behaviour" biological, psychological and socio - cultural perspectives. Principles of classification of psychological disorders with reference to DSM IV.

Common features of abnormal behaviourdeviance, distress, dysfunction, danger.

Different views of "abnormal" behaviour - the statistical stand - the biological/medical approach - the psychodynamic perspective - the sociocultural dimension; why classification of disorders is necessary - an



understanding of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – IV (brief explanation of each Axis).

(ii) Characteristics of some psychological, behavioural and developmental disorders: Anxiety - generalised, phobic, obsessivecompulsive; Mood - bi-polar, depression (causes and symptoms of all).

What is meant by anxiety - different forms of anxiety disorders: generalised, phobias, obsession -compulsive disorders; Mood disorders- characteristics of severe depression, manic-depressive or bipolar disorder (causes and symptoms).

Behavioural and Developmental Disorders-Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), Autism (definition and symptoms only).

- (iii) Schizophrenia meaning and characteristics.

 Basic nature of Schizophrenia: symptomspositive and negative.
- (iv) Psychotherapy Psychoanalysis; Clientcentred; Behavioural, Psychosocial Rehabilitation.

What is meant by Psychotherapy - central features of psychodynamic therapies - free transference and counter transference association, dream analysis, resistance (explain briefly); the principles on which client centred therapy has been developed. Behavioural therapies based on classical conditioning (flooding and svstematic desensitisation) and operant conditioning (shaping and token economy) and modelling (explain briefly). Cognitive Therapy- A. Ellis' Rational Emotive Therapy (explain briefly); Psychosocial Rehabilitation (explain briefly).

6. Social Thought and Social Behaviour

(i) Social Perception - attribution or the process through which people try to understand the reasons for others' behaviour.

Attribution- definition, biases in forming judgments. Explain with examples each of the following biases - fundamental attribution error or correspondence bias, self-serving

- bias, the false consensus effect, automatic vigilance.
- (ii) Social Influence- how people try to change others' behaviour; social norms; conformity and obedience - factors affecting them.

Meaning and characteristics of a group; types of groups- formal and informal, primary and secondary and in-group and outgroup. Meaning of social norms - why people conform to social norms; factors affecting Conformity and Obedience. Asch's study on conformity; why and when people obey others - Milgram's experiment.

7. Attitudes

(i) Meaning of "Attitude" - how attitudes are formed and changed.

What are attitudes - the components of attitude; the process of forming attitudes - how attitudes change: persuasion- definition and methods to change attitude and cognitive dissonance- definition and any three ways to reduce cognitive dissonance.

(ii) Prejudice – meaning of "prejudice" and discrimination; the origins of prejudice; how to combat prejudice.

An understanding of the meaning of prejudice and how it works in the form of discrimination - causes of prejudice: social learning, realistic competition, social categorization and stereotyping; ways in which prejudice can be resisted.

PAPER II (PRACTICAL WORK) – 30 Marks

Candidates will be expected to have completed **two** studies from those given below. Assessment will be based on a written report which should cover –

- (I) Aim
- (II) Basic concept: Definition of concepts used and related theory. Identification of variables independent and dependent.
- (III) Method (i) Sample of the Study
 - (ii) Procedure followed (datacollection, nature of raw data)
 - (iii) Statistical Treatment of Data
 - (iv) Results & Discussion



(v) Conclusion

The practical work will be assessed by the teacher and a Visiting Examiner appointed locally and approved by the Council.

Mark allocation **per study** [15 marks]:

Basic Concept	3 marks
Method (correctness of procedure)	4 marks
Results and discussion	4 marks
Viva	4 marks

A. Statistics

To study group differences in Examination results.

<u>Groups</u>: Any two classes or two sections of the same class with same subjects.

Raw Data: Summated scores on all subjects in the annual examination for each student.

Analysis:

- (i) Group analysis Calculate mean scores (central tendency) and standard deviations (variability) for each group and make inter-group comparisons.
- (ii) Individual analysis Calculate Z (standard) scores for any two students from each class one whose examination score is above the class mean and one whose examination score is below the class mean. Interpret the Z score in standard deviation units and indicate the percentage of scores that lie above/below the subject's score (use a table that gives the areas under the Normal curve corresponding to given values of Z).
- (iii) Graphic Representation bar diagram to depict the mean scores of both groups.

B. Attitudes

To study attitudinal differences regarding any one of the following – Fashion, Work/Lifestyle, Marriage.

<u>Groups</u>: Two generations (parents and children)

Or

Gender differences (boys and girls) of the same agegroup (preferably from Class XI or XII).

<u>Tools:</u> to construct a simple 5-point scale (10-15 items) with positively and negatively worded statements.

<u>Raw Data</u>: Summated scores on all the statements for each respondent.

Analysis:

- (i) Calculate mean attitudinal scores for each group and make inter-group comparisons.
- (ii) Short, structured interview schedule constructed and administered to 8-10 students in each group. The responses elicited can be used to draw inferences to explain the inter-group differences, if any.

C. Stress

To study the causes and effects of stress among school students.

Group: Class X or Class XI students

<u>Tools</u>: To construct <u>two</u> checklists - one indicating the potential stressors along with a 5-point rating scale indicating their frequency of occurrence (very often, often, sometimes, rarely, very rarely). The stressors should include dispositional/internal variables (personality attributes, cognitive appraisal) and situational/external variables (life events, environmental pressures – physical, social, cultural and academic stressors).

The second checklist should indicate the effects of stress (strain) – physical, psychological and behavioural along with their frequency of occurrence (on a 5-point rating scale).

<u>Analysis</u>: To determine the stressors and the effects that occur with the most to the least frequency and understand/explain each.

NOTE: No question paper for Practical Work will be set by the Council.