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# Psychologist Job Interview Preparation Guide.

## Question #1

Explain me are you a detail oriented person?

#### Answer:-

As a Psychologist, attention to detail is needed from charting to counseling patients. Explain your skills and use examples. Tell the interviewer about your patience, determination and proactive attitude.

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#### Question # 2

Tell us why did you choose to become a clinical psychologist?

#### Answer-

This question provides you insight into the applicant's personal experiences and motivations. Some people enter the field of clinical psychology due to their own experience with a psychologist or other mental health professional as a child or youth. Some have an inherent yearn to help to others. Some exhibit a curiosity about how the mind works and wish to better understand human behavior. Their response give you a window into their background, personality and work ethic. What to look for in an answer:

Personal experience with psychology Motivation and passion for the field Communication of work ethic and habits

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## Question #3

Please explain have you ever failed to properly diagnose a client or offer helpful counseling? What did you do?

## Answer:

In the event that a candidate fails to offer the counseling a patient requires, the candidate should recommend the patient to a specialist who they believe is better suited to deal with their problem. It is important that candidates do not create the impression that the patient's problem is unsolvable, but rather that they require care beyond the candidate's professional capacity.

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## Question #4

Explain me what is acupuncture?

## Answer:

acupuncture a treatment in traditional Chinese medicine in which sharp needles are inserted in special places on the skin and twirled rapidly to affect other parts of the body, this technique is used to suppress pain and to treat other bodily problems

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## Question #5

Tell me what do you look for in a patient's nonverbal cues during a counseling session?

## Answer:

An effective clinical psychologist will not only be listening carefully to a patient's answers to questions or evaluating the direction a client chooses to take, but they will also be aware of nonverbal cues. You'll want to assess your candidate's ability to observe things like body language, tone of voice, eye contact and nervous habits. These nonverbal cues are important when assessing and treating a client. What to look for in an answer:

Ability to observe nonverbal cues Experience in interpreting nonverbal cues

Effectiveness in using cues to help in assessment and treatment

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## Question # 6

What is altered state of consciousness?



#### Answer:-

altered state of consciousness a condition r state that is considered outside the realm of normal consciousness, resulting from any number of different conditions, such as sensory deprivation or overstimulation, hypnosis, meditation, or the use of psychoactive drugs

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#### Question #7

What is associative learning?

#### Answer:

associative learning the learning of associations between two stimuli or between a stimulus and a response based on repetition, includes classical and operant conditioning

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## Question #8

What is beauty principle?

#### Answer-

beauty principle the tendency for individuals to like physically attractive persons more than physically unattractive persons, especially in first impressions

#### Question #9

What is brightness contrast?

#### Answer:-

brightness contrast the perceiver's tendency to exaggerate the physical difference in the light intensities of two adjacent regions, as a result, a gray patch looks brighter on a black background and darker on a white background

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#### Question # 10

What is cohort effect?

#### Answer:-

cohort effect age-related differences among people who grew up at the same time attributable to cultural or historical differences while growing up rather than real developmental change

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## Question # 11

What are your career goals as Psychologist?

## Answer:

This question is being asked to gain insight into your self-awareness and communication skills. Have a short term and long term goal in mind. Make all goals relevant to your career field. Be confident in your answers as they are your goals and no one else's.

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## Question # 12

Explain me what was your role and responsibilities in a past position as a school psychologist?

## Answer:

The applicant should exhibit an experience-based knowledge of the specific duties a school psychologist performs. Their response should include psychological analysis, developing and implementing programs to help students meet educational needs and achieve their educational and personal goals, including making vocational program referrals. They should also exhibit an understanding of the paperwork required and confidentiality needs. What to look for in an answer: Understanding of psychological analysis

Knowledge of program planning and management

Experience with records keeping and report writing per district requirements

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## Question # 13

Explain me what has been your greatest achievement with a patient?

## Answer:-

Candidates should describe how they identified a unique problem, made the patient aware of something they did not yet know and in doing so provided the patient with successful counseling. Look for stories where candidates identified a problem and found a creative solution to it.

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## Question # 14

Tell me what disorders have you treated most frequently, and what have been your results?

## Answer:-

In this case, you're seeking to match your candidate's experience with your organization's current needs. For example, if your clinic treats many patients suffering from anxiety and depression, you'll want someone with familiarity in those areas. However, if you see many elderly individuals who are struggling with mental health issues in combination with physical challenges, you may want to hire a psychologist with more experience with this age group. What to look for in an answer: Experience in areas where you have need



A broad understanding of common mental health issues Specialty with particular age groups

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#### Question #15

What is amphetamines?

#### Answer:-

amphetamines drugs that stimulate the CNS putting the body into a hyperenergized state, amphetamines block the reuptake of dopamine into nerve cells while directly causing the release of dopamine from the cells

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## Question # 16

What is attribution theory?

#### Answer:-

attribution theory the theory that seeks to explain how we decide, on the basis of samples of an individual's behavior, what the specific causes of that behavior are

## Question # 17

What is behavior therapy?

#### Answer:-

behavior therapy a general approach to psychological treatment which hold that the disorders to which it addresses itself are produced by maladaptive learning and must be remedied by reeducation, proposes techniques for this reeducation based on principles of learning and conditioning, and focuses on the maladaptive behaviors themselves rather than on hypothetical unconscious processes of which they may be expressions

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#### Question # 18

What is central traits?

#### Answer:-

central traits according to Allport, the core traits, usually five to ten, that best describe a person's personality, they are generalized across situations and readily noticeable by others

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## Question # 19

What is compliance techniques?

## Answer:-

compliance techniques persuasive techniques used to induce people to behave in a requested way, many are based on the social-psychological principles of consistency, reciprocity, attraction, social validation, scarcity, and authority

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## Question # 20

What is diathesis-stress model?

## Answer:-

diathesis-stress model a model based on the belief that many organic and mental disorders arise from an interaction between a diathesis (a predispositions toward and illness) and some form of precipitating environmental events

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## Question # 21

Explain me what kind of impact would you like to make here?

## Answer:-

This is a great question to turn the tables on the interviewer. Tell the interviewer that you'd like to tackle any projects they need someone to take the lead on if there is an inspection or accreditation coming up you want to be a part of it. This is your chance to ask the interviewer what they currently have in the queue to accomplish. This will give you an idea of what else the job entails.

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## Question # 22

Explain me what do you see as the fundamental skills of a psychologist?

## Answer:

The applicant's answer to this should reveal an inherent understanding of the skills used by psychologists on a daily basis and why they are important. The appropriate answer reflects both hard and soft skills. It includes decision making, collaboration, learning, instruction, research, crisis intervention, mental health counseling, policy development, technology standards and developing student diversity. What to look for in an answer:

Data analysis and decision making skills

Crisis prevention and intervention experience

Psychology practicing skills



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#### Question # 23

Tell me what, in your opinion, is the most important quality in a Counseling Psychologist?

#### Answer:

Along with patience, candidates should cite empathy and emotional intelligence as key skills in a Counseling Psychologist.

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#### Question # 24

What is adrenal glands adrenals?

#### Answer:-

adrenal glands, adrenals the endocrine glands responsible for secreting the hormones adrenaline (epinephrine) and noradrenaline (norepinephrine), which regulate bodily functions and affect mood and emotion, blood pressure, blood sugar level, and redistribution of blood between internal organs and voluntary muscles

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## Question # 25

Please explain about a challenging case, your approach to it and the results you got?

#### Answer.

You'll be able to assess the psychologist's level of experience as well as obtain a glimpse into the candidate's approach to a difficult client. Be sure that you understand the outcome of the case, the treatment time window and the correlation between treatment and results. If the candidate offers a routine case example, he or she may not have the experience needed to treat more complex psychological disorders. What to look for in an answer:

Experience level with difficult or complex cases

Case conceptualization and approach

Level of focus on positive outcomes

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#### Question # 26

Explain me what inspired you to pursue Counseling Psychology?

#### Answer:-

While this is typically a generic question, it holds a certain significance in the counseling profession. Counseling Psychologists are required to treat the job as more than just a job. Working with people to better themselves requires patience and perseverance. Candidates should cite a strong motivation for wanting to pursue counseling, such as a life-changing event take took place when they were younger, for example.

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## Question # 27

What is your greatest strength as Psychologist?

## Answer:-

This is the most common interview question so don't let this question surprise you, take the time to think about what you want to say. Read the job description and try to identify traits that the employer wants in their new hire. Have an example ready to back up your strength. If you are struggling to find your strength, ask a trusted friend or colleague what they think are your greatest strengths or go back to previous performance reviews and read over the positive feedback.

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## Question # 28

Tell us as a patient is emotionally distressed after suffering a traumatic experience. How do you respond?

## Answer:

Counseling Psychologists require tremendous patience and understanding with their clients. Candidates should describe how they managed to calm them down in a level-headed, professional manner and assured them of their capacity to treat them.

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## Question # 29

What is agonists?

## Answer:-

agonists a group of psychoactive drugs that cause neurotransmitters to be released, prevent deactivation of neurotransmitters, or mimic the effects of neurotransmitters by binding to their receptors, drugs such as nicotine and cocaine are examples

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## Question #30

What is brain growth spurt?

## Answer-

brain growth spurt the developmental period during which more than half of a child's eventual brain weight is added, this period occurs between the last three months of pregnancy and the first year after birth

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#### Question #31

What is cognitive?

#### Answer:

cognitive behavioral therapy - a process by which people's faulty cognitions about themselves and the world are changed to more accurate ones, thus changing the maladaptive behaviors based on those cognitions

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## Question #32

What is dark adaptation?

#### Answer:-

dark adaptation an increase in the eye's sensitivity to light that occurs after the reduction or complete absence of light energy reaching it, attributable to changes in the level or light-sensitive pigments in the eye's receptor cells

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#### Question #33

What is systematic desensitization?

#### Answer:-

systematic desensitization a behavior therapy used to treat phobias through a gradual process of counterconditioning to a response incompatible with fear, usually muscular relaxation, the stimuli are usually evoked as mental images according to an anxiety hierarchy whereby the less frightening stimuli re conterconditioned before the more frightening ones

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#### Question # 34

Explain me what is your greatest weakness? What are you doing to improve it as Psychologist?

#### Answer:-

This is one of the most common questions that are asked during interviews. Avoid answering with a character trait as those will be more difficult to bring to a team. When answering this question the most important thing to remember is, to be honest. You need to perform an honest assessment of your skills relative to the requirements of the job and identify some legitimate areas for improvement. Tell the interviewer about a functional weaknesses or skill deficiencies as can be addressed through learning and development.

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## Question # 35

Tell us what models of psychology are you familiar with and practice?

## Answer:-

Clinical psychologists typically adhere to one main model in their practice. During the interview process, you will want to understand if your candidate practices from a psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, biological, cross-cultural, evolutionary or humanistic perspective. If you're hiring in order to add to a group practice, you may be seeking a model your staff either does not have or one that will fit in with the current team. What to look for in an answer:

Experience and passion in particular areas

Understanding and appreciation for all models

Background, education and continued learning

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## Question #36

What is anchoring heuristic?

## Answer:-

anchoring heuristic a common decision-making shortcut through which currently available information is used as a reference point for judgment, which is then subject to later adjustment

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## Question # 37

Explain what is autonomic nervous system?

## Answer:-

autonomic nervous system the division of the peripheral nervous system that consists of the nerves and ganglia that serve the glands, smooth muscles, and the heart Read More Answers.

## Question #38

What is classical conditioning?

## Answer:

classical conditioning the learning of a new response to a stimulus by pairing the stimulus with another stimulus that already elicits the response Read More Answers.

## Question # 39

What is consensus?



#### Answer:-

consensus the extent to which a person's reactions in response to an event are shared by others, in Kelley's theory, this is one piece of information used to determine whether people make dispositional or situational attributions for behavior

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#### Question # 40

What is superego?

#### Answer:-

superego according to Freudian theory, one of the basic structures of the personality, it is the partially unconscious area of the mind that contains and enforces people's values, morals, and basic attitudes that they learned from their parents and society

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## Question # 41

Tell us what is your greatest strength as a psychologist?

#### Answer.

The applicant's answer should relate their expertise and specialization areas. Potential specializations within the field of psychology include assessment, child development, cognitive psychology, group therapy and psychoanalysis. While the applicant should exhibit skill and experience in all areas of psychology and therapy, they should convey their specific strengths and specialty in this response. They should enumerate relevant prior experience. What to look for in an answer:

Enumeration of strengths relevant to the position Description of special skills or interests in the field

Evidence of a motivation that is in line with the kind of psychology

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#### Question # 42

Please explain what types of counseling sessions are you most comfortable with?

#### Answer:

Clinical psychologists typically have experience in different counseling settings. For example, some candidates specialize in individual therapy with adults while others work primarily with children. Some therapists enjoy and have experience in marital or partner therapies whereas others may be very strong at running group sessions. Matching your applicant's understanding with the type of sessions demanded the most at your practice will be important. What to look for in an answer: Experience in the setting you require

Understanding of individual, marital and group therapy

Willingness to grow into new areas

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## Question # 43

What is auditory nerve?

## Answer:

auditory nerve one of the basic structures of the ear formed by the axons of all the hair cells on the basilar membrane, this structure carries information about sounds to the brain for further processing

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## Question # 44

What is borderline personality disorder?

## Answer:-

borderline personality disorder a personality disorder characterized by distrust, impulsive and self-destructive behavior, and difficulty in controlling anger and other emotions

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## Question # 45

What is concrete operational stage?

## Answer:-

concrete operational stage in Piaget's theory, the developmental period from about ages six to eleven, at this time, the child has acquired mental operations that allow her or him to abstract some essential attributes or reality, such as number and substance, but these operations are as yet applicable to only concrete events and cannot be considered entirely in the abstract

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## Question # 46

What is distinctiveness?

## Answer:

distinctiveness the extent to which a person's behavior is unique, that is the extent to which a given behavior does or does not occur across different situations, in Kelley's theory, this is one piece of information used to determine whether people make dispositional or situational attributions for behavior

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## Question # 47

Tell us what training model did you pursue in your graduate studies?



#### Answer:-

The applicant should mention both the scientist model and the scientist-practitioner model although they will have to have chosen only one while in graduate school. Their answer determines whether their training was in a program that emphasized research or clinical practice. A Ph.D. from a scientist model program prepares them for a career in research. They aren't trained in the practice of psychology and cannot obtain employment as therapists. Those trained in the scientist-practitioner model, aka the Boulder Model, trains the graduate student in both clinical practice and research methods. These Ph.D.s may forge a career in academia, teaching and researching or in clinical practice or both. What to look for in an answer:

Graduate studies training model knowledge

Educational specifics

Application of graduate studies to career development

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#### Question # 48

What is anal stage?

## Answer:-

anal stage according to Freud, the second stage of childhood development, which occurs between one to three years of age, in which psychic energy becomes focused on anal activities, such as defecation

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#### Question # 49

What is behavioral medicine?

#### Answer:-

behavioral medicine an interdisciplinary field which encompasses scientific research, education, and practice focusing on the relation between behaviors to health, illness, and related physiological problems

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#### Question #50

What is culturally sensitive therapy?

#### Answer:-

culturally sensitive therapy therapy designed to be responsive to variations of values, beliefs, norms, and behaviors across cultures, when dealing with disadvantaged groups, it avoids blaming the victim and recognizes that behaviors defined as abnormal by the dominant society may be coping strategies necessary for survival

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## Question # 51

What is diffusion of responsibility?

## Answer:

diffusion of responsibility a decrease in a person's individual sense of responsibility to help in an emergency that occurs when bystanders are present, the greater the number of bystanders, the less likely a helping response is to occur

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## Question # 52

What is artificial intelligence?

## Answer:-

artificial intelligence the programming in a computer that instructs it to behave in intelligent ways, as in simulating human knowledge and skills to accomplish a task, as well as the branch of computer science concerned with such programming

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## Question #53

What is blind spot?

## Answer:-

blind spot the place on the retina where the optic nerve exits the eyeball that lacks rods or cones, the brain fills in information to compensate for the lack of receptors in this area

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## Question # 54

What is attachment behaviors?

## Answer:-

attachment behaviors the signals, e.g., crying, smiling, reaching, and clinging from infants that trigger responsiveness in caregivers, increasing the likelihood of attachment

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## Question # 55

What is cannon-Bard theory?

## Answer:-

Cannon-Bard theory the perspective that suggests that when we are exposed to emotion-provoking events or stimuli, we simultaneously experience both physiological



arousal and the subjective experience of emotions

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## Question #56

What is culture?

#### Answer-

culture a people's way of life, including material goods, social institutions, and the symbols, concepts, values, beliefs, norms, habits, skills, and other learned capabilities acquired by human beings and transmitted across generations

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## Question # 57

What is binocular disparity?

#### Answer.

binocular disparity when both eyes are focused on the same object, the difference in the retinal position of the object's image in the left and right eyes provides a cue for depth perception

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#### Question # 58

What is autoimmune diseases?

#### Answer:-

autoimmune diseases a class of diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis, that are characterized by a disruption of the chemical communication system that regulates the immune system, instead of attacking antigens, the immune system attacks healthy tissues of the body and causes inflammation or deterioration

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#### Question # 59

What is amniocentesis?

#### Answer-

amniocentesis a medical technique used after the sixteenth week of pregnancy whereby a sample of amniotic fluid is drawn from the amniotic sac surrounding the fetus, an analysis of the fluid enables doctors to determine whether the fetus has certain chromosomal abnormalities

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## Question # 60

Explain what is differentiation?

## Answer:

differentiation a progressive change from the general to the particular and from the simpler to the more complex which characterizes embryological development, according to some theorists, the same patters holds for the development of behavior after birth

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## Question # 61

What is conditioned response (CR)?

## Answer:-

conditioned response (CR) a response elicited by some initially neutral stimulus, the conditioned stimulus (CS), as a result of pairing between that CS and an unconditioned stimulus (US), the CR and the unconditioned response are typically not identical, though they are often similar

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## Question # 62

What is cochlea?

## Answer:-

cochlea a coiled structure in the inner ear that contains the basilar membrane whose deformation by sound-produced pressure stimulates the auditory receptors Read More Answers.

## Question # 63

Explain what is association cortex?

## Answer:

association cortex region of the cortex that is not programmed for sensory or motor activities were higher mental processing involved in thought, learning, and memory occurs, this region is involved in the integration of sensory information or motor commands

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## Question # 64

What is color deficiency?

Answer:-



color deficiency the inability of people with normal acuity to see certain colors, owing to a deficit in one or more of the three types of retinal cones, the most common is the inability to distinguish red and green

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#### Question # 65

What is anterograde amnesia?

#### Answer:-

anterograde amnesia a disruption of memory consolidation process that occurs when a blow to the head interferes with the formation of memory of events immediately following the blow

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## Question # 66

What is central nervous system?

#### Answer:-

central nervous system one of the major divisions of the human nervous system, it consists of the brain, spinal cord, optic nerves, and retina, and is primarily responsible for storing and processing information

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#### Question # 67

What is delirium tremens?

#### Answer-

delirium tremens syndrome of highly unpleasant withdrawal symptoms (i.e., hallucinations, vomiting, uncontrolled trembling, and muscle spasms) that occurs as a consequence of abstinence from intoxicating substances after a period of long-term heavy use

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#### Question # 68

What is biological universals?

#### Answer-

biological universals the biological elements that are common among all the members of a species, for human being, these include body structure, dependency of newborn children, year-round sexuality, and a complex brain structure

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## Question # 69

What is automatic processing?

## Answer:

automatic processing the encoding of information, particularly related to tme, space, and frequency of events in addition to well-learned information that occurs outside of conscious awareness and requires little attention or effort, and is of unknown capacity

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## Question #70

What is cognitive dissonance theory?

## Answer:-

cognitive dissonance theory Leon Festinger's consistency theory, which states that inconsistency between cognitions produces discomfort (dissonance), leading a person to act to restore consistency in order to remove that discomfort. For example, when we realize that we have behaved in a way that is inconsistent with out attitudes, we may change out attitudes to reduce the dissonance caused by having those inconsistent cognitions

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## Question #71

What is availability heuristic?

## Answer:-

availability heuristic the decision-making shortcut whereby one's judgment is biased from using the information that most readily comes to mind Read More Answers.

## Question # 72

What is cognitive approach?

## Answer:-

cognitive approach a theoretical framework of human and animal learning which olds that both humans and animals acquire and store mental representations of knowledge, cognitions, such as what is where, cognitive maps or what leads to what, expectancies, this contrasts with theories of instrumental learning such a s Skinner', which assert that learning consists of the strengthening or weakening of particular tendencies

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