Educational Psychology Practice Test 1

60 original multiple-choice questions for teacher test preparation (FPSC / FGEI / PPSC style). Choose one answer for each question. The full answer key is on the last page — worked explanations for every question are free on the test page at QuaidianPoint.com.

Name: _____ Class: _____ Score: _____ / 60

Nature, Scope and Importance of Educational Psychology

Q1. Educational psychology is best described as the study of:

(A) The history of school systems in different countries
(B) Learning, behaviour and mental processes in educational settings
(C) The financial management of schools and colleges
(D) The design of school buildings and furniture

Q2. A teacher notices that some pupils grasp a new concept quickly while others need repeated practice. This difference mainly falls within the scope of educational psychology because it concerns:

(A) School admission policy
(B) The school timetable
(C) Examination scheduling
(D) Individual differences among learners

Q3. Which statement best expresses the nature of educational psychology?

(A) It is an applied science that draws on psychology to improve teaching and learning
(B) It is a pure science concerned mainly with laboratory experiments on learning
(C) It is mainly a method of testing pupils' intelligence for placement decisions
(D) It is a set of teaching techniques that replaces subject knowledge

Q4. The scope of educational psychology includes the learner, the learning process, the learning situation and:

(A) The school transport system
(B) The school canteen menu
(C) The teacher and the teaching process
(D) The construction of examination halls

Q5. A head teacher wants to understand why pupils in one class are more motivated than pupils in another class studying the same subject. Educational psychology helps here mainly by:

(A) Changing the school uniform policy
(B) Increasing the length of the school day
(C) Explaining motivation, interest and classroom climate
(D) Reducing the number of subjects taught

Q6. Which of the following is a primary aim of educational psychology?

(A) To help teachers understand learners and make teaching more effective
(B) To prepare school budgets and audit accounts
(C) To design textbooks and print examination papers
(D) To enforce school discipline through punishment alone

Q7. When a teacher studies how a child grows physically, thinks, feels and relates to others over time, she is mainly studying:

(A) School administration
(B) Curriculum design
(C) Educational measurement only
(D) Human growth and development

Q8. Educational psychology is important for a teacher because it helps the teacher to:

(A) Memorise the syllabus without planning lessons
(B) Understand learner needs, select suitable methods and judge learning outcomes
(C) Avoid all classroom assessment
(D) Teach every pupil in exactly the same way

Q9. A teacher who adjusts her explanation after noticing confusion on pupils' faces is applying educational psychology mainly in the area of:

(A) School finance
(B) Record keeping
(C) Parent-teacher meetings
(D) The teaching-learning process

Q10. Which topic is LEAST directly part of the scope of educational psychology?

(A) Learning theories
(B) The construction cost of a new school block
(C) Memory and forgetting
(D) Classroom discipline and guidance

Q11. The learning situation in educational psychology refers mainly to:

(A) The weather during the school day
(B) The price of textbooks in the market
(C) The classroom environment, materials and social setting in which learning takes place
(D) The route pupils take to school

Q12. Educational psychology differs from general psychology mainly because it:

(A) Applies psychological principles specifically to education, teaching and learning
(B) Studies only the brain and nervous system
(C) Ignores the role of the teacher
(D) Deals only with examinations

Q13. A teacher finds that a pupil performs well in class discussion but poorly in written tests. Knowledge of educational psychology would most usefully lead the teacher to consider:

(A) Differences in assessment format, test anxiety and the pupil's mode of expression
(B) The pupil's home address
(C) The colour of the classroom walls
(D) The pupil's favourite sport

Q14. Which of the following best shows that educational psychology is a science?

(A) It relies on personal opinion alone
(B) It avoids all observation of learners
(C) It uses systematic observation, measurement and evidence to test ideas about learning
(D) It repeats traditional sayings about teaching

Q15. A school wants to place pupils in groups for remedial work. The most relevant contribution of educational psychology to this decision is knowledge of:

(A) The size of each class and the number of available classrooms
(B) Pupil ability, prior learning and learning difficulties
(C) Pupils' ages and the year groups they belong to
(D) The subjects in which pupils score highest

Q16. Understanding heredity and environment matters in educational psychology because:

(A) Heredity alone fixes all learning outcomes
(B) Environment alone fixes all learning outcomes
(C) Neither factor has any effect on learning
(D) Both interact to shape a learner's development and achievement

Q17. A teacher who knows about attention, interest and readiness is better able to:

(A) Ignore pupils who are slow to respond
(B) Finish the syllabus without checking understanding
(C) Present new material at a suitable time and in a way pupils can follow
(D) Give the same homework to every pupil every day

Q18. Which situation best illustrates the importance of educational psychology for classroom management?

(A) A teacher counts the chairs in the room each morning
(B) A teacher files attendance registers on time
(C) A teacher orders new textbooks for the library
(D) A teacher uses knowledge of group behaviour and motivation to keep pupils engaged and orderly

Q19. Educational psychology helps a teacher evaluate learning mainly by providing knowledge of:

(A) Assessment, measurement and interpretation of pupil performance
(B) School building maintenance
(C) Staff recruitment procedures
(D) Transport arrangements for school trips

Q20. A new teacher asks why some pupils forget material soon after a test. The most relevant psychological topic for her question is:

(A) School inspection rules
(B) Memory, retention and forgetting
(C) Admission criteria
(D) Holiday schedules

Q21. Guidance and counselling are part of the scope of educational psychology because they help learners with:

(A) Choosing subjects and careers only after leaving school
(B) Personal, educational and career problems that affect learning
(C) School uniform selection
(D) Sports team selection alone

Q22. The study of how pupils learn, develop and differ in classroom settings belongs most directly to:

(A) Educational psychology
(B) Philosophy of education
(C) Sociology of education
(D) History of education

Methods of Studying Learners in Educational Psychology

Q23. In the observation method, a researcher or teacher mainly:

(A) Asks pupils to fill in a questionnaire
(B) Conducts a laboratory experiment with animals
(C) Interviews parents about school fees
(D) Watches and records behaviour as it occurs in a natural setting

Q24. A major limitation of the observation method is that:

(A) It always requires expensive equipment
(B) It can only be used with adult learners
(C) The observer's presence or bias may affect what is recorded
(D) It never produces useful classroom information

Q25. In an experiment on teaching methods, the group that receives the new method is called the:

(A) Control group
(B) Survey group
(C) Interview group
(D) Experimental group

Q26. A researcher compares test scores of two classes taught by different methods, keeping syllabus, time and tests the same. The variable she deliberately changes is the:

(A) Dependent variable
(B) Constant variable
(C) Independent variable
(D) Confounding variable she failed to notice

Q27. The case study method is most suitable when a teacher wants to:

(A) Survey a thousand pupils quickly
(B) Study one pupil's background, behaviour and problems in depth over time
(C) Test a new textbook in fifty schools
(D) Compare national examination results

Q28. Which method would best collect the opinions of a large number of pupils about a new timetable in a short time?

(A) Questionnaire or survey method
(B) Case study of one pupil
(C) Laboratory experiment
(D) Clinical interview of one child

Q29. In an interview, information is mainly gathered through:

(A) Face-to-face questioning and conversation with the respondent
(B) Silent observation without any questions
(C) Reading school financial records
(D) Checking attendance registers alone

Q30. A teacher keeps a daily record of one pupil's behaviour, progress and incidents over a term. This record is best described as:

(A) A school timetable
(B) An anecdotal record
(C) An examination result sheet
(D) A stock register

Q31. The introspection method in psychology mainly involves:

(A) Observing other people's behaviour in a laboratory
(B) Measuring reaction time with instruments
(C) Studying school records
(D) A person reporting his or her own conscious thoughts and feelings

Q32. A psychologist studies a child's development by observing the same child at ages 6, 8 and 10. This is an example of a:

(A) Cross-sectional study only
(B) Survey of many schools
(C) Longitudinal study
(D) Single test administration

Q33. Which method is most appropriate for studying the effect of praise on pupils' class participation while keeping other conditions similar?

(A) Unstructured casual conversation
(B) Reading old school magazines
(C) Controlled classroom experiment
(D) Collecting pupils' drawings only

Q34. In a study, pupils' test scores are the outcome being measured after a teaching intervention. Test scores here are the:

(A) Independent variable
(B) Dependent variable
(C) Control group
(D) Research hypothesis

Q35. A major strength of the experimental method compared with simple observation is that it:

(A) Allows the researcher to control conditions and test cause and effect more directly
(B) Requires no planning at all
(C) Works equally well without any comparison group
(D) Gives results that need no interpretation

Q36. A teacher wants to understand why a pupil suddenly stopped doing homework. The most suitable first step from a psychological standpoint is to:

(A) Punish the pupil immediately without inquiry
(B) Change the pupil's class at once
(C) Ignore the change and wait for examinations
(D) Gather information about the pupil's home, health, peers and classroom experience

Q37. Standardised tests are useful in educational psychology mainly because they:

(A) Are prepared quickly by any teacher without checking
(B) Replace all teacher judgement
(C) Test only memory
(D) Allow comparison of a pupil's performance against established norms under uniform conditions

Q38. When a researcher studies children of different ages at the same time to compare age groups, the design is called:

(A) Cross-sectional study
(B) Case study
(C) Longitudinal study
(D) Clinical study

Q39. The main ethical requirement when studying pupils for research is to:

(A) Publish pupils' names with results
(B) Share individual results with the whole class
(C) Protect pupils' privacy and obtain proper consent
(D) Continue observation even if a pupil is distressed

Q40. A teacher uses a checklist to record how often a pupil raises a hand, answers questions and completes tasks during a week. This is an example of:

(A) Introspection
(B) Systematic observation
(C) A projective test
(D) A personality inventory

Behaviourism: An Introductory Overview

Q41. Behaviourism as a school of psychology gives primary importance to:

(A) Unconscious wishes and dreams
(B) Observable behaviour and its relation to environmental stimuli
(C) Inherited intelligence alone
(D) The structure of the mind through self-report only

Q42. Ivan Pavlov is best known in educational psychology for his work on:

(A) Trial and error learning in cats
(B) Operant conditioning in pigeons
(C) Classical conditioning
(D) Insight learning in chimpanzees

Q43. In Pavlov's classic experiment, the sound of a bell at first produced no salivation in the dog. At that stage the bell was a:

(A) Conditioned stimulus
(B) Unconditioned response
(C) Conditioned response
(D) Neutral stimulus

Q44. Edward Thorndike studied learning mainly by observing:

(A) Animals solving problems through repeated attempts and gradual success
(B) Children memorising poetry
(C) Adults reasoning about moral dilemmas
(D) Infants learning language from parents

Q45. A teacher notices that pupils repeat a behaviour that earned praise but drop one that earned a scolding. This pattern best illustrates:

(A) Thorndike's law of effect
(B) Insight learning alone
(C) Latent learning alone
(D) Observational learning alone

Q46. A pupil who once struggled with a mathematics problem keeps trying different steps until one works, and then uses that step again next time. This best illustrates:

(A) Classical conditioning
(B) Insight learning only
(C) Observational learning only
(D) Trial and error learning

Q47. B. F. Skinner is most closely associated with:

(A) Classical conditioning of reflexes
(B) Operant conditioning and reinforcement
(C) The law of readiness alone
(D) Psychoanalysis

Q48. In operant conditioning, a behaviour is strengthened mainly because of:

(A) The behaviour occurring before any stimulus
(B) The pupil's unconscious wishes
(C) The consequence that follows the behaviour
(D) The teacher's intention alone

Q49. A teacher praises a pupil for completing homework on time, and the pupil starts completing homework regularly. The praise here is acting as:

(A) A neutral stimulus
(B) A punishing stimulus
(C) A positive reinforcer
(D) An unconditioned stimulus

Q50. Which classroom example best fits the behaviourist view of learning?

(A) A pupil's correct answers increase when they are followed by recognition and feedback
(B) A pupil learns mainly by thinking about abstract ideas with no practice
(C) A pupil learns only when no external feedback is given
(D) A pupil's behaviour never changes with experience

Q51. A pupil feels anxious whenever a particular subject period begins, even before any test is announced. From a classical conditioning view, this anxiety is best understood as:

(A) A response learned through punishment alone
(B) A learned emotional response associated with the subject period
(C) A reflex present from birth
(D) A result of forgetting the syllabus

Q52. Thorndike's law of exercise suggests that a connection between a situation and a response is strengthened by:

(A) Avoiding the task altogether
(B) Thinking about the task without doing it
(C) Watching others do the task once
(D) Repeated practice and use of the connection

Q53. A teacher breaks a long spelling task into small steps and praises each correct step. This approach is most consistent with:

(A) Leaving pupils entirely without guidance
(B) Testing only at the end of the term
(C) Giving the whole task at once with no feedback
(D) Shaping behaviour through successive steps and reinforcement

Q54. Which of the following is a behaviourist explanation for why a pupil keeps raising a hand to answer?

(A) The pupil has an unconscious wish to speak
(B) Hand-raising has previously been followed by the teacher's attention and praise
(C) The pupil's intelligence is fixed and unchangeable
(D) The pupil memorised the textbook by heart

Q55. Educational psychology and behaviourism together help a teacher most when the teacher:

(A) Uses knowledge of learners and of reinforcement to plan, teach and review learning
(B) Uses knowledge of learners to set examinations and rank pupils
(C) Relies mainly on pupils' natural maturation without planned intervention
(D) Applies the same reinforcement schedule to every pupil regardless of need

Q56. A pupil who practises multiplication tables daily answers more quickly and accurately over time. The behaviourist account emphasises:

(A) The pupil's dreams about numbers
(B) The pupil's family income
(C) Repeated practice and the strengthening of stimulus-response connections
(D) The colour of the mathematics textbook

Q57. A teacher wants to reduce late homework submission. A behaviourist first step would most sensibly be to:

(A) Change the school building
(B) Identify what currently follows on-time and late submission, and adjust consequences consistently
(C) Stop all homework permanently
(D) Move the pupil to another school

Q58. Which statement best summarises the contribution of educational psychology to a beginning teacher?

(A) It gives the teacher a scientific basis for understanding learners, planning lessons and managing the classroom
(B) It removes the need for lesson planning
(C) It guarantees that every pupil will score full marks
(D) It replaces subject knowledge with general advice

Q59. A teacher who studies how praise, practice and classroom climate affect learning is working mainly within:

(A) School accountancy
(B) Educational administration alone
(C) Educational psychology
(D) Curriculum printing

Q60. The most balanced conclusion a teacher can draw from behaviourism is that:

(A) Only punishment changes behaviour
(B) Behaviour never depends on the environment
(C) Internal thought processes are the only cause of learning
(D) Observable behaviour and its consequences are a powerful, though not the only, guide to teaching

Answer Key

Q1: B	Q11: C	Q21: B	Q31: D	Q41: B	Q51: B
Q2: D	Q12: A	Q22: A	Q32: C	Q42: C	Q52: D
Q3: A	Q13: A	Q23: D	Q33: C	Q43: D	Q53: D
Q4: C	Q14: C	Q24: C	Q34: B	Q44: A	Q54: B
Q5: C	Q15: B	Q25: D	Q35: A	Q45: A	Q55: A
Q6: A	Q16: D	Q26: C	Q36: D	Q46: D	Q56: C
Q7: D	Q17: C	Q27: B	Q37: D	Q47: B	Q57: B
Q8: B	Q18: D	Q28: A	Q38: A	Q48: C	Q58: A
Q9: D	Q19: A	Q29: A	Q39: C	Q49: C	Q59: C
Q10: B	Q20: B	Q30: B	Q40: B	Q50: A	Q60: D

Worked explanations for all 60 questions:
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