

# Psychometrician Board Licensure Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What behavior is Ravi exhibiting by brushing his teeth 18 times a day with 83 strokes up and down?**
  - A. He is following a strict hygiene regimen**
  - B. He likely has obsessive-compulsive disorder**
  - C. He is overly concerned with dental health**
  - D. He may be trying to impress others**
- 2. What condition is indicated by a person who wakes up confused and fails to recognize their spouse after a job loss?**
  - A. Dissociative disorder**
  - B. Major depressive disorder**
  - C. Post-traumatic stress disorder**
  - D. Anxiety disorder**
- 3. Which characteristic is NOT common in antisocial personality disorder?**
  - A. Emotional detachment**
  - B. Delusions**
  - C. Lack of empathy**
  - D. Impulsivity**
- 4. What motivates employees with a strong need for achievement?**
  - A. High salary positions**
  - B. Jobs that are challenging and provide some control**
  - C. Extensive job security**
  - D. Flexible schedules**
- 5. What method is primarily used to collect qualitative data during job analysis?**
  - A. Focus Groups**
  - B. Surveys**
  - C. Observations**
  - D. Interviews**

- 6. What kind of play is characterized by children playing side by side but not interacting?**
- A. Cooperative play**
  - B. Parallel play**
  - C. Solitary play**
  - D. Associative play**
- 7. What is a criterion in the context of testing?**
- A. The predicted outcome of the test**
  - B. The standard against which the test is compared**
  - C. The items included in the test**
  - D. The method of scoring the test**
- 8. What is the primary focus of Erikson's psychosocial development theory?**
- A. Social behaviors in childhood**
  - B. Development of identity through various life stages**
  - C. Impact of genetic factors on personality**
  - D. Cognitive growth during adolescence**
- 9. What is the first stage of human development according to the stages of fertilization?**
- A. Fetal stage**
  - B. Germinal stage**
  - C. Embryonic stage**
  - D. Neonatal stage**
- 10. What statistical method allows you to estimate the correlation between two halves of a test?**
- A. Spearman-Brown formula**
  - B. Pearson correlation**
  - C. Point-biserial correlation**
  - D. Kendall's tau**

## **Answers**

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1. B
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. D
6. B
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. A

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What behavior is Ravi exhibiting by brushing his teeth 18 times a day with 83 strokes up and down?**

- A. He is following a strict hygiene regimen**
- B. He likely has obsessive-compulsive disorder**
- C. He is overly concerned with dental health**
- D. He may be trying to impress others**

Ravi's behavior of brushing his teeth excessively—18 times a day with 83 strokes—suggests a pattern that goes beyond typical dental hygiene practices. This level of repetition and frequency can be indicative of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), which is characterized by unwanted, intrusive thoughts (obsessions) that lead to repetitive behaviors (compulsions). In the case of OCD related to hygiene, individuals often feel compelled to engage in specific routines or rituals to alleviate anxiety associated with their fears about cleanliness or dental health. This behavior does not simply reflect a strict hygiene regimen or a healthy concern for dental health, both of which would typically be more moderate and in accordance with general recommendations from dental professionals. Furthermore, attempting to impress others doesn't directly align with the nature of obsessions and compulsions present in OCD. Instead, Ravi's actions seem to stem from an internal struggle with anxiety, compelling him to brush obsessively to cope with his worries, which aligns most closely with the symptoms of OCD.

**2. What condition is indicated by a person who wakes up confused and fails to recognize their spouse after a job loss?**

- A. Dissociative disorder**
- B. Major depressive disorder**
- C. Post-traumatic stress disorder**
- D. Anxiety disorder**

The condition described, where a person wakes up confused and has difficulty recognizing familiar individuals like their spouse after a significant life event such as job loss, aligns closely with dissociative disorders. Dissociative disorders often involve a disruption in consciousness, memory, identity, or perception of the environment. This can manifest as confusion, memory gaps, or alterations in identity, which can be triggered by stressful events or trauma. In the scenario provided, the job loss might serve as a psychological stressor that leads to dissociative symptoms, wherein the individual temporarily disconnects from their sense of self or reality, possibly producing confusion and memory disturbances. The failure to recognize a spouse can reflect the dissociative aspect of detachment from personal relationships or identity. In contrast, while major depressive disorder involves feelings of sadness and a loss of interest in activities, it typically does not specifically include confusion or disconnection from identity. Post-traumatic stress disorder primarily involves re-experiencing a traumatic event, avoidance of reminders, and increased arousal, but not necessarily confusion about identity or familiarity. Anxiety disorders are characterized more by excessive worry and physical symptoms of anxiety, rather than disorientation and identity confusion. Thus, the characteristics presented in the question are most indicative of a

### 3. Which characteristic is NOT common in antisocial personality disorder?

- A. Emotional detachment
- B. Delusions**
- C. Lack of empathy
- D. Impulsivity

In the context of antisocial personality disorder (ASPD), the characteristic that is not commonly associated with this condition is delusions. Individuals with ASPD typically exhibit traits such as emotional detachment, lack of empathy, and impulsivity, which all reflect a disregard for the feelings and rights of others. Emotional detachment allows them to engage in harmful behaviors without emotional consequences, while lack of empathy means they often cannot understand or care about the impact of their actions on others. Impulsivity in this context refers to their tendency to act without thinking about the consequences, further contributing to their antisocial behaviors. In contrast, delusions, which are false beliefs that are firmly held despite evidence to the contrary, are more characteristic of psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia. People with ASPD may lie or manipulate but do not typically experience the kind of fixed, false beliefs seen in delusional disorders. Therefore, while ASPD includes several behavioral traits that reflect a lack of social responsibility or regard for others, holding delusions is not a fundamental characteristic of this disorder.

### 4. What motivates employees with a strong need for achievement?

- A. High salary positions
- B. Jobs that are challenging and provide some control**
- C. Extensive job security
- D. Flexible schedules

Employees with a strong need for achievement are primarily motivated by tasks and challenges that allow them to demonstrate their capabilities. Such individuals thrive on performance excellence and personal accomplishment, which is why they are drawn to jobs that are not only challenging but also allow them a degree of control over how they approach their work. They prefer situations where they can set and reach attainable goals, receive feedback on their performance, and feel a sense of personal ownership over the outcomes. Challenging jobs provide an opportunity for these employees to stretch their skills and push their limits, which is essential for satisfying their intrinsic motivation. The element of control is also significant; having autonomy in their work processes enables them to strategize and optimize their efforts toward achieving their goals, further fueling their motivation. In contrast, while a high salary or job security might appeal to some employees for various reasons, these factors do not inherently fulfill the core desire for achievement. Similarly, flexibility in work schedule may enhance work-life balance but does not directly cater to the intrinsic drive for setting and accomplishing challenging objectives. Thus, the primary motivation for those with a strong need for achievement aligns closely with jobs that are both demanding and empower them through control.

**5. What method is primarily used to collect qualitative data during job analysis?**

- A. Focus Groups**
- B. Surveys**
- C. Observations**
- D. Interviews**

Interviews are primarily used to collect qualitative data during job analysis because they allow for in-depth exploration of the job roles, responsibilities, and the context in which the work is performed. This method permits the interviewer to engage directly with employees or subject matter experts, fostering a conversational environment where participants can express their thoughts, feelings, and insights in their own words. The ability to ask follow-up questions further clarifies responses and uncovers nuances that might be overlooked in other methods. Moreover, interviews can adapt to the flow of conversation, allowing the interviewer to probe deeper into specific areas of interest, thereby collecting richer, more detailed information that is essential for understanding complex job functions. In contrast, while focus groups, surveys, and observations also contribute to data collection, they have limitations in capturing the depth of employee experiences, perspectives, and the qualitative aspects inherent in job roles.

**6. What kind of play is characterized by children playing side by side but not interacting?**

- A. Cooperative play**
- B. Parallel play**
- C. Solitary play**
- D. Associative play**

The term that best describes children playing side by side without direct interaction is parallel play. During this stage of play, typically seen in toddlers and young children, each child engages in their own activities while in close proximity to one another. They may use similar materials or toys but do not actively share or collaborate in their play. This form of play is an important developmental step, as it indicates that children are becoming aware of others and can function in a shared environment, even if they are not yet able to engage in cooperative activities. In contrast, cooperative play involves children working together towards a common goal, associative play includes more interaction with sharing and taking turns, and solitary play is when a child plays alone without involving others. Understanding these types of play helps in recognizing the developmental milestones and social skills in children as they grow.

**7. What is a criterion in the context of testing?**

- A. The predicted outcome of the test
- B. The standard against which the test is compared**
- C. The items included in the test
- D. The method of scoring the test

In the context of testing, a criterion refers to the standard against which a test is assessed. This concept is crucial in psychometrics since it helps establish the validity and reliability of the test. By having a clear criterion, psychometricians can evaluate how well the test measures what it is supposed to measure. For instance, if a test is designed to predict a job's performance, the criterion might be the actual job performance metrics of individuals who took the test. By comparing test scores to actual performance outcomes, one can determine how accurately the test predicts job effectiveness. In essence, the criterion serves as a benchmark that allows researchers and practitioners to understand the usefulness and applicability of the test results in real-world scenarios. This concept also plays a key role in various forms of validation, such as criterion-related validity, where the relationship between test scores and the established criterion is analyzed to confirm the test's effectiveness.

**8. What is the primary focus of Erikson's psychosocial development theory?**

- A. Social behaviors in childhood
- B. Development of identity through various life stages**
- C. Impact of genetic factors on personality
- D. Cognitive growth during adolescence

The essence of Erikson's psychosocial development theory is centered on the development of identity through various life stages. Erikson proposed that personality development occurs in a series of eight predetermined stages that span from infancy to late adulthood. Each stage is marked by a psychosocial conflict that individuals must resolve to develop a healthy personality and a sense of self. For instance, the initial stages focus on trust versus mistrust and autonomy versus shame and doubt, teaching foundational aspects of identity. As individuals progress through the stages, they encounter challenges related to identity versus role confusion in adolescence and intimacy versus isolation in young adulthood, highlighting the critical importance of identity formation throughout life. Thus, understanding that identity is an evolving concept influenced by social relationship contexts across different life phases is key in Erikson's framework, making the development of identity through various life stages the correct focus of his theory.

**9. What is the first stage of human development according to the stages of fertilization?**

- A. Fetal stage**
- B. Germinal stage**
- C. Embryonic stage**
- D. Neonatal stage**

The germinal stage is indeed the correct answer because it marks the very beginning of human development. This stage occurs from the moment of conception to approximately two weeks later, encompassing the fertilization of the egg and the initial cell divisions that lead to the formation of a blastocyst. During this phase, the fertilized egg travels down the fallopian tube and begins to implant into the uterine lining. This stage is crucial as it sets the foundation for subsequent development, where the basic cellular structures and genetic makeup are established, preparing for the following embryonic stage. In contrast, the fetal stage occurs later, after the embryonic stage, when the developing organism has taken on the characteristics of a recognizable human form. The neonatal stage pertains to the period immediately after birth, which is entirely separate from the initial development phases occurring in utero.

**10. What statistical method allows you to estimate the correlation between two halves of a test?**

- A. Spearman-Brown formula**
- B. Pearson correlation**
- C. Point-biserial correlation**
- D. Kendall's tau**

The Spearman-Brown formula is used to estimate the reliability of a test when it is split into two halves, effectively providing a way to assess the correlation between the two halves of the test. This method is particularly relevant in psychometrics for determining the split-half reliability of an instrument, which is a measure of how consistently different parts of a test yield similar results. By administering the same test to a group and then dividing the scores into two halves, the Spearman-Brown formula helps in adjusting the correlation obtained from these halves to predict what the correlation would be if the test had a different length. This adjustment allows psychometricians to infer the stability and consistency of the test items as they relate to each other when split, thereby giving insight into the overall reliability of the test. In contrast, the other statistical methods listed serve different purposes. The Pearson correlation measures the linear correlation between two continuous variables, not specifically designed for split-half reliability. The point-biserial correlation is used when one variable is continuous and the other is binary, and Kendall's tau is a non-parametric measure of correlation between two ordinal variables. These methods do not specifically address the analysis of test halves.