

# CLEP® Human Growth and Development: At a Glance

## Description of the Examination

The Human Growth and Development examination (Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence, Adulthood and Aging) covers material that is generally taught in a one-semester introductory course in developmental psychology or human development. An understanding of the major theories and research related to the broad categories of physical development, cognitive development and social development is required, as is the ability to apply this knowledge.

The examination contains approximately 90 questions to be answered in 90 minutes. Some of them are pretest questions that will not be scored.

## Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the CLEP® Human Growth and Development examination require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities:

- Knowledge of basic facts and terminology
- Understanding of generally accepted concepts and principles
- Understanding of theories and recurrent developmental issues
- Applications of knowledge to particular problems or situations

The subject matter of the Human Growth and Development examination is drawn from the following categories. For each category, several key words and phrases identify topics with which candidates should be familiar. The percentages next to the main categories indicate the approximate percentage of exam questions on that topic.

### 10% Theoretical Perspectives

Cognitive developmental

Evolutionary

Learning

Psychodynamic

Social cognitive

Sociocultural

### 5% Research Strategies and Methodology

Case study

Correlational

Cross-sectional

Cross sequential

Experimental

Longitudinal

Observational

### 10% Biological Development Throughout the Life Span

Development of the brain and nervous system

Heredity, genetics and genetic testing

Hormonal influences

Influences of drugs

Motor development

Nutritional influences

Perinatal influences

Physical growth and maturation, aging

Prenatal influences

Sexual maturation

Teratogens

### 7% Perceptual Development Throughout the Life Span

Sensitive periods

Sensorimotor activities

Sensory acuity

Sensory deprivation

### 12% Cognitive Development Throughout the Life Span

Attention

Environmental influences

Executive function

Expertise

Information processing

Memory

Piaget, Jean

Play

Problem solving and planning

Thinking

Vygotsky, Lev

Wisdom

### 8% Language Development

Bilingualism

Development of syntax

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Environmental, cultural and genetic influences

Language and thought

Pragmatics

Semantic development

Vocalization and sound

## **4% Intelligence Throughout the Life Span**

Concepts of intelligence and creativity

Developmental stability and change

Heredity and environment

## **10% Social Development Throughout the Life Span**

Aggression

Attachment

Gender

Interpersonal relationships

Moral development

Prosocial behavior

Risk and resilience

Self

Social cognition

Wellness

## **8% Family, Home and Society Throughout the Life Span**

Abuse and neglect

Bronfenbrenner, Urie

Death and dying

Family relationships

Family structures

Media and technology

Multicultural perspectives

Parenting styles

Social and class influences

## **8% Personality and Emotion**

Attribution styles

Development of emotions

Emotional expression and regulation

Emotional intelligence

Erikson, Erik

Freud, Sigmund

Stability and change

Temperament

## **8% Learning**

Classical conditioning

Discrimination and generalization

Habituation

Operant conditioning

Social learning and modeling

## **5% Schooling, Work and Interventions**

Applications of developmental principles

Facilitation of role transitions

Intervention programs and services

Learning styles

Occupational development

Preschool care, day care and elder care

Retirement

## **5% Atypical Development**

Antisocial behavior

Asocial behavior, fears, phobias and obsessions

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder

Autism spectrum disorders

Chronic illnesses and physical disabilities

Cognitive disorders, including dementia

Genetic disorders

Giftedness

Learning disabilities

Mental retardation

Mood disorders

Trauma-based syndromes

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## Study Resources

Most textbooks used in college-level human growth and development courses cover the topics in the outline above, but the approaches to certain topics and the emphases given to them may differ. To prepare for the Human Growth and Development exam, it is advisable to study one or more college textbooks, which can be found for sale online and in most college bookstores.

You may also find it helpful to supplement your reading with books and articles listed in the bibliographies found in most developmental psychology textbooks.

Parents and others who work with children may have gained some preparation for this test through experience. However, knowledge of the basic facts, theories and principles of child psychology and lifespan development is necessary to provide background for taking the exam.

A recent survey conducted by CLEP found that the following textbooks are among those used by college faculty who teach the equivalent course. Most of these have companion websites with practice test questions and other study resources. HINT: When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the Knowledge and Skills Required for this test.

Belsky, <i>Experiencing the Lifespan</i> (Worth)
Berger, <i>The Developing Person Through the Life Span</i> (Worth)
Berk, <i>Exploring Lifespan Development</i> (Allyn & Bacon)
Berryman et al., <i>Developmental Psychology and You</i> (Wiley)
Boyd and Bee, <i>Lifespan Development</i> (Allyn & Bacon)
Brown, <i>Developmental Psychology: A Course Companion</i> (SAGE)
Craig and Dunn, <i>Understanding Human Development</i> (Prentice Hall)
Feldman, <i>Development Across the Life Span</i> (Prentice Hall)
Harris and Butterworth, <i>Developmental Psychology: A Student's Handbook</i> (Psychology Press)
Kail and Cavanaugh, <i>Human Development: A Life-Span View</i> (Wadsworth)
Newman and Newman, <i>Development Through Life: A Psychosocial Approach</i> (Wadsworth)
Papalia et al., <i>Human Development</i> (McGraw-Hill)
Santrock, <i>Essentials of Life-Span Development</i> (McGraw-Hill)
Sigelman and Rider, <i>Life-Span Human Development</i> (Wadsworth)
Slater and Bremner, <i>An Introduction to Developmental Psychology</i> (Wiley-Blackwell)
Thornton, <i>Understanding Human Development</i> (Macmillan)

In addition, the following resources, compiled by the CLEP test development committee and staff members, may help you study for your exam. However, none of these sources are designed specifically to provide preparation for a CLEP exam. The College Board has no control over their content and cannot vouch for accuracy:

<http://ocw.tufts.edu/Course/35/Coursehome>  
(Tufts Open Courseware--Human Growth and Development)

[http://psychology.wikia.com/wiki/Developmental\\_psychology](http://psychology.wikia.com/wiki/Developmental_psychology)  
(Developmental Psychology wiki)

Visit [www.collegeboard.com/clepprep](http://www.collegeboard.com/clepprep) for additional human growth and development resources. You can also find suggestions for exam preparation in Chapter IV of the *CLEP Official Study Guide*. In addition, many college faculty post their course materials on their schools' websites.

## Sample Test Questions

The following sample questions do not appear on an actual CLEP examination. They are intended to give potential test-takers an indication of the format and difficulty level of the examination and to provide content for practice and review. For more sample questions and info about the test, see the *CLEP Official Study Guide*.

1. Charles is a businessman who made a great deal of money over the past 20 years. Throughout his life he has always been self-absorbed and competitive in his business dealings and in social settings. He is now 48 years old and has no spouse or children. Charles has decided to start a charitable foundation for the benefit of needy children. Charles is most likely in Erik Erikson's stage of

- (A) industry versus inferiority
- (B) generativity versus stagnation
- (C) initiative versus guilt
- (D) trust versus mistrust
- (E) autonomy versus shame and doubt

2. Which of the following research methods would most likely be used when examining the behavior of a group of children on the playground?

- (A) Case study
- (B) Archival
- (C) Observational
- (D) Cross-sectional
- (E) Experimental

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3. According to some researchers, what is the most likely reason that the age of menarche has been decreasing from past decades?

- (A) An increase in young women's consumption of nutrients and fatty foods
- (B) An increase in physical activity at earlier ages among young women
- (C) An increase in the tendency for young women to interact with the opposite sex
- (D) A decrease in the quality of health care for young women
- (E) A decrease in exposure to environmental estrogens contained in such things as certain plastics and pesticides

4. A cognitive-developmental-stage theorist like Jean Piaget would expect which of the following to be true?

- (A) Children perform at a higher stage level when novel tasks and materials are used.
- (B) Children often skip one stage of development when their IQs fall in the gifted range.
- (C) Children in different cultures go through the same stages in the same order.
- (D) Children move from one stage to the next stage more quickly in response to intense training.
- (E) Children move through the stages more quickly when they are rewarded for successful problem solving.

5. Research suggests that which of the following types of intelligence may increase throughout the life span?

- (A) Fluid
- (B) Performance
- (C) Mathematical
- (D) Crystallized
- (E) Spatial

6. Fifteen-year-old Tabatha sees someone steal something from a convenience store. She decides to tell the clerk because she knows that it is important to uphold the laws of society in order to help maintain social order. According to Lawrence Kohlberg's theory, Tabatha is at a level of moral reasoning known as

- (A) conventional
- (B) preconventional
- (C) postconventional

(D) formal operational

(E) preoperational

7. Timothy is an 8-year-old who gets into a lot of fights at school, does not do well academically, frequently breaks rules and is self-centered. If Timothy's behavior stems from a particular parenting style, his parents' style of parenting is most likely to be

- (A) authoritative
- (B) permissive
- (C) authoritarian
- (D) neglectful
- (E) autonomous

8. John tends to be hardworking, ambitious and persevering. He rates high on which of the following Big Five personality dimensions?

- (A) Agreeableness
- (B) Neuroticism
- (C) Extraversion
- (D) Openness
- (E) Conscientiousness

9. A behaviorist who is studying the link between parenting style and childhood aggression would be most likely to focus on

- (A) how parents punish their children's aggressive behavior
- (B) how parents in different communities interpret their children's aggressive behavior
- (C) what parents believe about their children's aggressive behavior
- (D) the point at which parents seek professional advice about their children's aggressive behavior
- (E) whether or not parents emotionally reject aggressive children

10. A community decides to improve its health-care system by creating hospices that provide support to families with terminally ill family members. This type of hospice program is an example of

- (A) a home health aid program
- (B) palliative care
- (C) euthanasia
- (D) an advance directive
- (E) a life review

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## Credit Recommendations

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The American Council on Education has recommended that colleges grant 3 credits for a score of 50, which is equivalent to a course grade of C, on the CLEP Human Growth and Development exam. Each college, however, is responsible for setting its own policy. For candidates with satisfactory scores on the Human Growth and Development examination, colleges may grant credit toward fulfillment of a distribution requirement, or for a particular course that matches the exam in content. Check with your school to find out the score it requires for granting credit, the number of credit hours granted and the course that can be bypassed with a passing score.

*Answers to Sample Questions:* 1-B; 2-C; 3-A; 4-C; 5-D; 6-A; 7-B; 8-E; 9-A; 10-B