

Tutorial Letter 202/2/2024

**Foundations of sub-disciplines in
Psychology**

PYC1512

Semesters 2

Department of Psychology

Feedback for assignment 02.

BARCODE

Feedback on Assignment 02

Dear Student,

The purpose of the assignment was to assess your knowledge, understanding, and level of engagement with the module content. Please read this feedback carefully and pay attention to the questions you may have had difficulty answering in your assignment. The feedback should help you to identify areas that you need to focus on based on your assignment mark and prepare for the exam. We hope that you have learned more about the module and will make an effort to prepare for the second assignment and the exam.

All the best with your studies.

PYC1512 Teaching Team

Please note that the questions for Assignment 02 have been randomised in the online assessment. Therefore, the order of the MCQs in your assignment may differ from the order below. Ensure that you compare your assignment feedback with the corresponding question and answer in this tutorial letter.

Question	Answer
1	B. Ubuntu
2	B. Reserving jobs and training for unskilled whites; minimising job competition between Africans and whites.
3	A. 1960's; 1980's
4	C. The victims' need to grieve and make meaning of personal losses was restricted by the public testimonies.
5	A. Preserve and disseminate knowledge.
6	C. It extends mental health services to some citizens, in particular the historically unserved, underserved, and oppressed.
7	B. Differentiation
8	D. An infant's reflexes develop through maturation and learning
9	D. Emotional attachment and the need for physical interaction are the foundations of social development
10	B. Pre-operational stage
11	D. Psychosocial development
12	D. Identity versus role confusion
13	B. Symbolic representation
14	B. Object permanence
15	C. Superego
16	C. Research findings on black people were often negative or opposing compared to those on white people
17	D. It is only restricted to certain behaviours to maintain peaceful coexistence in society
18	C. Isimilo/seemo
19	D. Feelings
20	B. Its definition is not specific to any culture and context.

21	D. Processes taking place within their universe.
22	B. It reflects an individual's existence concerning the community, with themselves, the spiritual realm, and the physical world.
23	C. That life is relational
24	B. Attribution theory
25	C. Cognitive dissonance theory

Assignment 2 feedback

Question 1

The concept of ----- in African communities is considered a way of life, a frame of understanding reality, and an essential concept that guides our moral compass and conscience.

- A. isintu
- B. ubuntu
- C. culture
- D. umuntu

Feedback

To be able to answer this question, students are required to study the unit on community psychology. The terms *isintu* and culture can be used interchangeably in that, *isintu* (option A) refers to the principles of culture which guide *ubuntu*. Culture (option C) refers to *isintu*, an institution where ubuntu is practiced. *Ubuntu* (option B) is regarded as a way of life and a frame of understanding reality and an essential component that guides our moral compass and conscience. *Umuntu* (option D) is the person that forms part of the community (*uluntu*). The correct answer is **option B, ubuntu**.

Question 2

The Carnegie Commission study was one of the earliest large-scale social community interventions aimed at alleviating the poverty faced by a political minority group. According to Seedat and Lazarus (2014), which of the following were recommendations made in the Carnegie Commission study report?

- A. Introducing policies that enforce social integration, minimising job competition between Africans and whites.
- B. Reserving jobs and training for unskilled whites; minimising job competition between Africans and whites.
- C. Alleviating poverty among a political minority group; reserving jobs and training for unskilled whites.
- D. Creating class distinctions within the white Afrikaner social order; minimising job competition between Africans and whites.

Feedback

The Carnegie Commission report recommended that jobs and training be reserved for unskilled whites to minimise competition between African and white workers, reinforcing racial divisions. Therefore, the correct answer is **option B**, which accurately reflects this recommendation. Option A is incorrect because it suggests policies enforcing social integration, which contradicts the recommendations of segregation. Option C includes the correct point about reserving jobs for unskilled whites but adds an incorrect reference to alleviating poverty for the minority group, which was not the central aim. Option D inaccurately suggests that creating class distinctions within the white Afrikaner social order was a recommendation, when in fact the report sought to reduce competition between Africans and whites.

Question 3

Community psychology was introduced in the United States in the ----- while in South Africa it was introduced in the -----.

- A. 1960's; 1980's
- B. 1980's; 1960's
- C. 1970's; 1990's
- D. 1940's; 1960's

Feedback

The correct answer is **option A**. Community and health psychology originated from the recognition of the importance of considering an individual's environment. The idea of making the community a focal point for studying human behaviour stemmed from the protests that occurred in the United States of America in the 1960s. In South Africa community psychology was introduced in the 1980s.

Question 4

According to Seedat and Lazarus (2011), why was the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) considered counter-intuitive to individual healing?

- A. victims of human rights violations could tell their stories publicly.
- B. giving testimony in a public setting would help promote their well-being.
- C. the victims' need to grieve and make meaning of personal losses was restricted by the public testimonies.
- D. public testimonies placed a strong emphasis on forgiveness and reconciliation at a societal level.

Feedback

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) process was viewed as an opportunity for victims of high-profile human rights violations to tell their stories publicly (option A), which the commission believed would help promote their well-being (option B). The TRC strongly emphasised forgiveness and reconciliation at a societal level (option D). The TRC process was counter-intuitive to individual healing because it imposed restrictions on individual victims' ability to grieve and find personal meaning in their losses. This is because sharing traumatic experiences in a public forum can be re-traumatising for victims and may inhibit their ability to find closure. The correct answer is **option C**.

Question 5

According to Maseko (2017), idioms, proverbs, and songs serve which of the following purposes in African communities?

- A. preserve and disseminate knowledge.
- B. guide moral compass and conscience.
- C. connect with those around you.
- D. ensure well-being.

Feedback

Language remains the most reliable tool that could be used to understand African communities and their practices. According to Maseko (2017), the role of idioms, proverbs, and songs is to preserve and disseminate knowledge. The *ubuntu* philosophy in African communities is regarded as an essential concept that guides people's moral compass and conscience (option B). Connecting and having a sense of belonging to those around you (option C) is founded on the concept of humanity. Central to the concept of the community is people working together to ensure their well-being (option D). The correct answer is **option A**.

Question 6

Which of the following is INCORRECT about the conceptual definition of community psychology?

- A. It provides a contextual analysis that takes cognisance of social issues and addresses environmental stressors.

- B. It transforms the way in which the genesis and development of psychosocial problems are conceptualised and understood.
- C. It extends mental health services to some citizens, particularly the historically unserved, underserved, and oppressed.
- D. It radicalises the praxis of psychological service delivery to include prevention initiatives.

Feedback

Community psychology is a field that addresses the interplay between individuals and their communities, focusing on social issues, environmental stressors, and the promotion of well-being for all. Option A is correct because community psychology emphasises a contextual analysis that considers social issues and environmental stressors, aligning with its focus on understanding the broader context of psychosocial problems. Option B is also correct because it suggests that community psychology transforms how the genesis and development of psychosocial problems are conceptualised and understood. Option D is also correct since community psychology is committed to radicalising the practice of psychology to include prevention initiatives, moving beyond traditional therapy and treatment to address the root causes of social and psychological issues. However, Option C is incorrect to state that community psychology extends mental health services to some citizens, because community psychology extends services to all citizens. Therefore, **option C** is the incorrect statement in this question.

Question 7

Themba has reached a level of maturity where he recognises that his social identity is unique and that his personality is different from that of his friends. He also understands that people have different characteristics and that an individual's identity can be shaped by their role in society. Which concept best describes Themba's ability to recognise these differences?

- A. integration
- B. differentiation
- C. social development
- D. community psychology

Feedback

Integration (option A) refers to our efforts to get along with others, regulate our behaviour and act according to social codes and standards. Differentiation (option B) is the formation of our unique social identity and personality. Through differentiation, we develop a sense of self, recognise our unique characteristics, and understand the implications of our sex-role, family role, and social status for our identity. Social development (option C) refers to the development of self-awareness, attachment to caregivers, and relationships with other people. Community psychology (option D) refers to a field of study that offers health services to communities. The correct answer is **option B, differentiation**.

Question 8

Which of the following characteristics is INCORRECT about biological development?

- A. Newborns are born with genetically wired reflexes.
- B. Newborns have reflexes such as sucking and blinking which promote their survival.
- C. Most infants start by crawling by six months and then progress to walk by 13 months.
- D. An infant's reflexes develop through maturation and learning.

Feedback

The question asks students to choose the incorrect option. Biological development in infancy is characterised as a period of rapid brain development. Newborns come into the world equipped with several genetically wired reflexes. Option A is correct. Newborns have reflexes such as sucking and blinking that promote survival. Option B is correct. Infants start crawling by six months and walk by 13 months. Option C is correct. While both maturation (biological growth and development) and learning (acquiring skills and knowledge through experiences) are important factors in an infant's development, this option overlooks genetic predispositions and inherent biological factors. **Option D** is the incorrect option, it states that an infant's reflexes develop through maturation and learning only.

Question 9

Which of the following characteristics is INCORRECT about social development in children?

- A. Self-awareness, attachment to caregivers, and relationships with other people are important for social development.
- B. Parents play a significant role in influencing a child's early social development.
- C. Infants younger than one-year-old begin playing with other babies more frequently.
- D. Emotional attachment and the need for physical interaction are the foundations of social development.

Feedback

Social development involves the development of self-awareness, attachment to caregivers, and relationships with other people. Option A is correct. Parents are the most important influences in children's early social development. Option B is correct. Since they still do not have the social skills to carry any meaningful social interactions, infants under one year old rarely play with each other. Therefore, the incorrect answer is **option C**. Option D is correct because the core of a child's social development is an emotional attachment or a close emotional bond with his/her primary caregivers.

Question 10

During the ----- stage, children are more likely to view the world from their perspective and have trouble understanding other's point of view.

- A. concrete operational
- B. pre-operational
- C. formal operational
- D. sensorimotor

Feedback

The concrete operational stage (option A) is characterised by the development of mental operations. At this stage, children's cognition is transformed into more organised reasoning. During the pre-operational stage (option B), children gradually improve their use of mental images. A common characteristic at this stage is egocentrism. This is the tendency to see things from one's own perspective and to find it challenging to understand another person's perspective. The formal operational stage (option C) is characterised by emerging abstract thought and hypothetical reasoning. At this stage, children can reason systematically about abstract concepts such as liberty, love, and God. During the sensorimotor stage (option D) which occurs from birth to two years, infants use their senses to move and acquire information about the world around them. Based on the outlined information the correct answer is **option B, the pre-operational stage**.

Question 11

According to the ----- theory, a psychological crisis is a problem that needs to be addressed at a particular developmental stage.

- A. psychoanalysis
- B. cognitive developmental
- C. bioecological systems
- D. psychosocial development

Feedback

According to psychoanalysis (option A) people move through a series of five stages (called psychosexual stages) in which they confront conflicts between biological drives and social expectations. Cognitive Developmental Theory (option B) is concerned with a person's thought processes, investigating how these processes influence how we understand and interact with the world. Bioecological systems theory (option C) views human development within a complex system of relationships affected by multiple levels of the surrounding environments (which include the physical, social, economic, spiritual, and political). Psychosocial Developmental Theory (option D) describes growth and change throughout life. According to the theory, each stage is marked by a psychosocial crisis, a problem that must be dealt with at that particular time which serves as a turning point in an individual's psychosocial development. The correct answer is **option D, psychosocial development**.

Question 12

Which stage of the psychosocial development theory focuses on how individuals struggle to discover who they are?

- A. Autonomy versus shame and doubt
- B. Generativity versus stagnation
- C. Trust versus mistrust
- D. Identity versus role confusion

Feedback

To answer this question, students are required to understand the stages of psychosocial development. Autonomy versus shame and doubt (option A) occurs between the ages of 2-3 years, during which the child discovers their abilities and skills and abilities, such as feeding, dressing, and taking personal responsibility. The generativity versus stagnation (option C), takes place between 40–65 years. In this stage, the focus is on contributing to society by raising children or creating positive changes that benefit other people. Trust versus mistrust (option C) occurs from birth to 18 months. During this stage, infants solely depend on others to take care of their fundamental requirements, which include food, clothing, shelter, and protection. Identity versus role confusion (option D) occurs during adolescence (12–18 years). During adolescence, individuals strive to discover who they are, thus developing a sense of identity. This is a major stage of development, where adolescents have to learn the roles they will occupy as adults. The correct answer is **option D**.

Question 13

Sammy, a 1-year-old boy, knows that his puppy sleeps in a kennel or doghouse. Sammy tries to whistle every time he sees the kennel in the hopes that the puppy will come out. Sammy can form a ----- because he can think of the puppy even when it is not in his immediate environment.

- A. thought conservation
- B. symbolic representation

- C. hypothetico-deductive reasoning
- D. reversibility

Feedback

Thought conservation (option A) refers to children's ability to understand that quantities may remain the same, regardless of changes in their appearance. For example, children younger than age seven commonly say that the amount of liquid changes when it is poured into a differently shaped container. Symbolic representation (option B) refers to a child's ability to mentally represent and understand objects, actions or concepts using symbols or signs. Hypothetico-deductive reasoning (option C) occurs from ages 12 years and above, which refers to abstract reasoning, children become more scientific and logical in approaching problems. They are more likely to think through several alternatives more systematically. Reversibility (option D) refers to the capability of mentally undoing or reversing an action, typically observed during the concrete operational stage, where a child can mentally reverse a series of actions or transformations. Based on the scenario, Sammy's ability to think about the puppy even when it is not in his immediate environment means that he is able to form symbolic representation, the correct answer is **option B**.

Question 14

Nine-month-old Sisipho is playing with his softball, it rolls and gets hidden under the blanket. Although he cannot see the ball, Sisipho knows that it is still there, just temporarily hidden from view. This scenario refers to a concept called -----

- A. symbolic representation
- B. object permanence
- C. irreversibility
- D. animism

Feedback

Symbolic representation (option A) refers to a child's ability to mentally represent and understand objects, actions or concepts using symbols or signs. Object permanence (option B) is the awareness that objects and individuals continue to exist, even if they are no longer visible. For example, infants who have attained object permanence begin to search for hidden toys because they realise that the objects still exist. Based on the scenario, despite not seeing the ball, Sisipho is aware that it still exists beneath the blanket. The correct answer is **option B**. Irreversibility (option C) refers to an inability to reverse perceived actions. For example, a child pours a glass of juice into a differently shaped glass and believes that there is now more juice. The child does not understand that pouring the juice back into the original glass will not change the amount. Animism (option D) is when children believe that all things (living and non-living) possess life-like qualities and then assign human-like qualities to inanimate (non-living) objects. For example, a child may believe that their favourite teddy bear has feelings, thoughts as if it were a living being.

Question 15

Which structure of our personality acts as the moral component of personality that incorporates social standards about what is right or wrong, good or bad?

- A. Id
- B. Ego
- C. Superego
- D. Reality principle

Feedback

In Freud's theory, the personality comprises three structures: the id, ego, and superego. Id (option A) is the primitive source of biological drives that operates according to the pleasure principle. Ego (option B) is the conscious, rational, and decision-making component of the personality that operates according to the reality principle. Superego (option C) is the moral component of personality that incorporates social standards about what is right or wrong, good or bad. Its goal is to apply the moral values of the parents, caregivers, and society, in satisfying the individual's wishes. The reality principle (option D) is part of the ego structure. The correct answer is **option C**.

Question 16

Trait-comparison bias refers to -----.

- A. whether a person has certain predispositions from birth or whether it is because of their environment
- B. individualistic experiences of reality
- C. research findings on black people were often negative or opposing compared to those on white people
- D. the notion of an inferiority complex

Feedback

Trait-comparison bias refers to how research studies that were conducted on Black people yielded results that were negative or opposite to those of White people. Option A refers to the nature vs nurture debate which questions whether people are born with certain predispositions or whether it is because of exposure to the environment. Option B refers to individualism, an emphasis on the individual over the group's interests. Option D, the notion of inferiority complex refers to the way African people were impacted by the oppression levelled at them and the way they end up seeing themselves. The correct answer is **option C**.

Question 17

Which of the following statements is INCORRECT regarding Ubuntu/Botho principles?

- A. It is an ethic and philosophy that informs and guides the behaviour of the people in a society.
- B. It governs both the personal and communal aspects of life
- C. It is guided through isintu/setho principles.
- D. It is only restricted to certain behaviours to maintain peaceful coexistence in society.

Feedback

Ubuntu/botho could be defined as an ethic and philosophy that informs and guides the behaviour of the people in a society (option A). *Ubuntu/botho* governs both the personal and communal aspects of life (option B). This is done through cultural principles that are encapsulated in *isintu/setho*, which is defined as the culture that draws from and is guided by, *ubuntu/botho* (the ethic) (option C). It is not only limited to certain behaviours but is widely applied to ensure a harmonious life within a social setting. The questions ask students to identify the incorrect option, which in this case is **option D**.

Question 18

The concept of ----- is centred on the concept of wholeness.

- A. Umntu/motho
- B. Ubuntu/botho
- C. Isimilo/seemo
- D. Isintu/setho

Feedback

Umntu/motho (option A) makes the practise of *ubuntu* possible through speech and knowledge. *Ubuntu/botho* (option B) governs both the personal and communal aspects of life. *Isimilo/seemo* (option C) is centred on the concept of wholeness, which does not deny individuality, but acknowledges other relational elements through which the individual comes to know themselves. The concept of wholeness assumes that *umntu/motho* cannot be described by a single set of physical or psychological characteristics, while excluding other critical aspects such as the spiritual or metaphysical. This is done through cultural principles that are encapsulated in *isintu/setho* (option D), which is defined as the culture that draws from, and is guided by, *ubuntu/botho* (the ethic). The correct answer is **option C, isimilo/seemo**.

Question 19

Which of the following is NOT a factor in the transmission of trauma?

- A. projective identification
- B. silence
- C. over-disclosure
- D. feelings

Feedback

Transmission of trauma usually occurs from parent to child in a vertical, downward direction, but can also move in an upward fashion, as it did in South Africa during apartheid. When trauma is transmitted through family communication mechanisms, it can occur as projective identification, silence, and over-disclosure. Projective identification (option A) occurs when an individual projects unacceptable feelings onto another person. In terms of silence (option B), traumatic events can be confusing and complicated. This makes it difficult for parents who have experienced political violence to speak about it. The way they share their trauma becomes indirect and uncertain, especially because sensitive topics are often avoided. Over-disclosure (option C) refers to individuals who have suffered trauma, they may disclose graphic traumatic details to their children as a way of helping them navigate an unsafe, untrustworthy world. Feelings refer to the conscious emotional experiences and responses that individuals have to various stimuli, situations and thoughts. Victims of trauma are often ashamed, and this makes it difficult for them to talk about or express their feelings. The correct answer is **option D**.

Question 20

Which of the following statements is INCORRECT when defining the concept of personality?

- A. It refers to the mask we wear when we face the outside world.
- B. Its definition is not specific to any culture and context.
- C. It refers to you as a unique individual who is different from everybody else.
- D. It explains why people behave in a certain way or do certain things.

Feedback

The term “personality” stems from the word “*persona*” which refers to a mask that used to be worn by actors in a stage play. It may even refer to the mask we wear when we face the outside world (option A). Personality refers to everything about you that makes you who you are – a unique individual who is different from everybody else (option C). According to Akbar the nature, structure and functioning of personality are important for understanding how people view the world and themselves. It explains why people behave in a certain way or do certain things (option D). This has implications for how we view morality, social intelligence, and motivational life. This means that the definition of “personality” is culture- and context-specific. This makes option **B incorrect**.

Question 21

According to Semenya and Mokwena (2012), cosmology focuses on people's reality and ----.

- A. a holistic view of a person's existence in society
- B. a psychological reality shared by group members
- C. the interconnection of both living and spiritual beings
- D. processes taking place within their universe

Feedback

According to Semenya and Mokwena (2012), cosmology can be understood as a system of thought that emerges from a people's history and culture, which focuses on their reality and the processes taking place within their universe. A holistic view of a person's existence in society (option A) refers to African ontology. According to Semenya and Mokwena (2012), the psychological reality which is shared by group members (option B) is part of the definition of African ontology. The interconnection of both living and spiritual beings (option C) refers to the relational nature of life. The correct answer is **option D**.

Question 22

According to African existence in the world, how is a holistic view defined?

- A. It includes a person's existence within a certain community only.
- B. It reflects an individual's existence concerning the community, with themselves, the spiritual realm, and the physical world.
- C. It refers to an individual's characteristics that “make you who you are”.
- D. It refers to how African people place emphasis on the spiritual world.

Feedback

Central to African cosmology is the concept of ontology. Ontology refers to someone's ways of being. African ontology offers a holistic view of a person's existence in society. A holistic view is one that considers an African's existence in the world within his/her community, with him/herself, with the spiritual (God and the ancestors) and with the physical world (humans, animals, plants and inanimate objects). Based on the outlined explanations, it is not only limited to the individual's community (option A) but includes one's existence in the world. An individual's characteristics that “make you who you are” (option C) refers to personality. The statement, “African people place emphasis on the spiritual world” (option D) is incorrect because the holistic view considers both, the spiritual and the physical world. The correct answer is **option B**.

Question 23

Which principle are African ontology and cosmology founded on?

- A. They depend on geographical histories.
- B. That cosmologies are universal.
- C. That life is relational.
- D. That living and spiritual beings are separate.

Feedback

Cosmologies refer to a person's fundamental beliefs, philosophies and perspectives about the universe, its existence and their place in it. Different indigenous African people have different cosmologies, depending on their geographical histories (option A). Cosmologies are not universal, option B is incorrect. Ontology refers to someone's ways of being. African ontology offers a holistic view of a person's existence in society. The concepts of African ontology and cosmology are founded on the principle that life is relational (option C). This means that an interconnection of various forms, both living and spiritual, option D is incorrect. The correct answer is **option C**.

Question 24

Which social psychology theory explains how individuals interpret and understand the causes of their own and others' behaviours?

- A. social identity theory
- B. attribution theory
- C. cognitive dissonance theory
- D. evolutionary theory

Feedback

There are a few notable Social Psychology theories. Social identity theory (option A) refers to how we classify ourselves and others. Attribution theory (option B) refers to how we perceive others when they make decisions, aiming to explain how we evaluate and determine the causes of people's behaviour. Cognitive dissonance theory (option C) refers to how our minds have trouble processing conflicting information. Evolutionary theory (option D) refers to how and why we see people the way we do. The correct answer is **option B**.

Question 25

Which social psychology theory explains why it is difficult for our minds to process conflicting information?

- A. social identity theory
- B. attribution theory
- C. cognitive dissonance theory
- D. evolutionary theory

Feedback

To be able to answer this question, students are required to understand social identity theories. Social identity theory (option A) refers to how we classify ourselves and others. Attribution theory (option B) refers to how we perceive others when they make decisions, aiming to explain how we evaluate and determine the causes of people's behaviour. Cognitive dissonance theory (option C) refers to how our minds have

trouble processing conflicting information. Evolutionary theory (option D) refers to how and why we see people the way we do. The correct answer is **option C**.

End of assignment 2 feedback