Question 1. What is development? How is it different from growth and maturation?
Answer: Development is a process by which an individual grows and changes throughout the life cycle.

- The term Development refers to the changes that have a direction and hold definite relationship with what precedes it.
- includes changes in size (physical growth), changes in proportion (child to adult), changes in features (disappearance of baby teeth) and acquiring new features.

Development includes growth as one of its aspects.
Growth:

- Growth refers to an increase in the size of body parts or of the organism as a whole.
- It can be measured or quantified, e.g. growth in height and weight.

Maturation: refers to the changes that follow an orderly sequence and are largely dictated by the genetic blueprint which produces commonalities in our growth and " development.

Question 2. Describe the main features of life-span perspective on development.
Answer:

- The term development means a progressive series of changes that occur as a result of maturation and experience.
- Development implies qualitative changes in behaviour.
- Development does not consist merely of adding inches to one's height or of improving one's ability.
- It is a complex process of integrating many structures and functions.

The study of development according to the Life-span perspective (LSP) includes the following assumptions:

- Development is life long i.e. it takes place across all age groups starting from conception to old age. It includes both gains and losses, which interact in dynamic (change in one aspect goes with changes in others) ways throughout the life-span.
- The various Process of human development i.e. biological, cognitive and socio- emotional are interwoven in the development of a person throughout the lifespan.
- Development is multi-directional. Some dimensions or components of a given dimension of development may increase, with others show decrement, e.g. the experiences of adults may make them wiser and guide their decisions. However, with an increase in age, one's performance is likely to decrease on tasks requiring speed, such as running.
- Development is highly plastic, i.e. within a person, modifiability is found in psychological development, though plasticity varies among individuals.
- Development is influenced by historical conditions, e.g. The career orientation of school students today is very different

from those students who were in schools 50 years ago.

- Development is the concern of a number of disciplines. Different disciplines like psychology, anthropology, sociology and neuro-sciences study human development with different perspectives.
- An individual responds and acts in a particular context, e.g. the life events in everyone's life are not the same such as death of a parent, accident, earthquake etc affect the course of one's life as also the positive influences such as winning an award or getting a good job.

Question 3. What are developmental tasks? Explain by giving examples.
Answer:

- A task which arises at or about a certain period in the life of the individual, successful achievement of which leads to happiness and to success with later tasks.
- Some tasks arise mainly as a result of physical maturation, such as learning to walk.
- Others develop primarily from the cultural pressures of society, such as learning to read; and still others grow out of the personal values to read.
- Still others grow out of the personal values and aspirations of the individual, such as choosing and preparing for a vocation.

Purposes of Developmental Tasks :

- Developmental tasks serve three very useful purposes.
- They are guidelines that enable individuals to know what society expects of them at given ages. Parents, for example, can be guided in teaching their young children different skills by the knowledge that society expects the children to master these skills at certain ages and that their adjustments will be greatly influenced by how successfully they do so.
- Developmental tasks motivate individuals to do what the social group expects them to do at certain ages during their lives.
- Finally, developmental tasks show individuals what lies ahead and what they will be expected to do when they reach their next stage of development.

Question 4. 'Environment of the child has a major role in the development of the child'. Support your answer with examples.
Answer:

- Environment of the child has a major role to play in the development of the child because it includes the surroundings in which the child develops various cognitive and motor skills. It also influences the physical development of the child according to the limits set by genetic characteristics.
- The socio-economic and cultural environment has a major role in the development of the child's process, e.g., a child who is sent to school is able to develop characteristics of confidence and self-reliance more easily than a child who does not receive education.
  Thus, environment plays a vital role in the child's development.

Question 5. How do socio-cultural factors influence development?
Answer:

- Environmental factors are those factors which act upon the organism from outside and influence its structure and behaviour.
- After birth the infant is exposed to a complex external environment with its variety of physical and chemical energies, as well as the social forces which arise from contact

with other human beings.

- The environment differs and so also the effect on individuals. Different individuals within the same environment also differ. They develop different interests and attitudes, and they identify themselves to different groups- religious, political and recreational.

Man's genotype serves as a 'potential' source for his development of behaviour. Realisation of these potentialities, however, depends upon the interactions of the genotype with his environmental factors.

A child with average potential intelligence but a 'fertile' co-environment would do better in life. If the environment is congenial, the development is positive while it takes a negative turn if the environment is unpleasant.

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