

PhD Entrance Exam Syllabus for Psychology

1. Foundations of Psychology

- History and Schools of Psychology
 - Structuralism, Functionalism, Behaviorism, Gestalt, Psychoanalysis, Humanistic, Cognitive, and Evolutionary Psychology
- Research Methods in Psychology
 - Experimental, Correlational, and Descriptive Research
 - Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research
 - Statistical Methods and Data Analysis
 - Ethical Issues in Psychological Research

2. Biological Bases of Behavior

- Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology
 - Structure and Function of Neurons
 - Nervous System: Central and Peripheral
- Brain and Behavior
 - Brain Structures and their Functions
 - Neurotransmitters and Hormones
- Sensation and Perception
 - Sensory Processes
 - Perceptual Processes

3. Cognitive Psychology

- Memory
 - Models of Memory
 - Encoding, Storage, and Retrieval Processes
- Learning
 - Classical and Operant Conditioning
 - Observational Learning
- Language
 - Structure and Development of Language
 - Language Acquisition
- Thinking and Problem-Solving
 - Concepts, Categories, and Decision Making

4. Developmental Psychology

- Theories of Development
 - Piaget, Vygotsky, Erikson, Kohlberg
- Prenatal Development and Infancy
- Childhood and Adolescence



- Adulthood and Aging
- Attachment and Social Relationships

5. Social Psychology

- Social Cognition and Perception
 - Attribution Theories
 - Attitudes and Behavior
- Group Dynamics
 - Conformity, Compliance, and Obedience
 - Group Behavior and Leadership
- Interpersonal Relationships
 - Attraction, Love, and Aggression
 - Prosocial Behavior and Altruism

6. Personality Psychology

- Major Theories of Personality
 - Psychodynamic, Humanistic, Trait, Social-Cognitive, Biological
- Assessment of Personality
 - Psychometric Approaches
 - Projective Tests
- Personality Disorders

7. Psychopathology

- Classification of Psychological Disorders
 - DSM-5 and ICD-10 Criteria
- Anxiety Disorders
- Mood Disorders
- Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
- Personality Disorders
- Therapeutic Approaches
 - Psychotherapy: Cognitive-Behavioral, Psychodynamic, Humanistic, etc.
 - Pharmacotherapy

8. Applied Psychology

- Clinical and Counseling Psychology
- Health Psychology
- Educational and School Psychology
- Industrial-Organizational Psychology
- Forensic Psychology

9. Emerging Areas in Psychology

- Positive Psychology

- Cultural Psychology
- Neuropsychology
- Cyberpsychology

10. Research Proposal Writing and Presentation

- Identifying Research Problems
- Literature Review
- Formulating Hypotheses
- Designing Experiments and Surveys
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Reporting and Presenting Research Findings

Suggested Reading and References

• General Textbooks

- ✓ "Psychology" by David G. Myers
- ✓ "Introduction to Psychology" by Atkinson and Hilgard
- ✓ "Research Methods in Psychology" by John Shaughnessy, Eugene Zechmeister, and Jeanne Zechmeister

• Specialized Textbooks

- ✓ "Biopsychology" by John P.J. Pinel
- ✓ "Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience" by E. Bruce Goldstein
- ✓ "Social Psychology" by Elliot Aronson, Timothy D. Wilson, and Robin M. Akert
- ✓ "Theories of Personality" by Jess Feist and Gregory J. Feist

• Journals and Articles

- ✓ American Psychologist
- ✓ Journal of Experimental Psychology
- ✓ Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
- ✓ Developmental Psychology
- ✓ Clinical Psychology Review

Exam Pattern

- **Objective Type Questions (MCQs)**
 - Based on core areas: Foundations, Biological Bases, Cognitive, Developmental, Social, Personality, Psychopathology
- **Subjective Questions**
 - Essay type questions on key topics
 - Case study analysis
- **Research Proposal**



- Write and present a brief research proposal on a given topic

