



**Tutorial letter 202/1/2016**


**Child and Adolescent Development  
PYC2602**

**Semester 1**

**Department of Psychology**

**Feedback on Assignment 02**

BAR CODE



## CONTENTS

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Dear Student

This tutorial letter, which will be our last tutorial letter to you, contains feedback on Assignment 02. **Please see Tutorial Letter 201/2016 about the examination.**

This is now the time to put your shoulder to the wheel as there is no better way of dealing with the examination than being thoroughly prepared for it. We wish you well in the final stretch before the examinations and every success with your further studies.

Friendly greetings

**YOUR PSYCHOLOGY LECTURERS**

**ANSWERS TO ASSIGNMENT 02**

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## 2 FEEDBACK ON ASSIGNMENT 02

**Please note that all the page numbers in our feedback refer to Louw and Louw (2014) (the 2nd edition)**

### Question 1

Which of the following statements is TRUE of concrete operational children's thinking?

- (1) They can only focus on one aspect of a problem at a time.
- (2) They can work with more than one cognitive dimension at the same time, thereby decentering.
- (3) They can apply hypothetical thinking.

### Feedback on Question 1

Because concrete operational children are less egocentric, they can decenter, which means that they do not focus on one aspect only at a time. Therefore alternative (1) is incorrect and alternative (2) is the correct answer.

Concrete operational children cannot yet think abstractly or hypothetically. Alternative (3) is therefore incorrect.

Please study the concrete operational stage on p. 229-230.

### Question 2

Lerato is Sotho-speaking, and her husband Xholisa, Xhosa-speaking. They decide to simultaneously teach their children both languages from birth. According to most research, what can Lerato and Xholisa expect in terms of their children's language development?

- (1) That their children will have a delay in their language development.
- (2) That the one language will be parasitical to the other; therefore not one of the languages will develop sufficiently.
- (3) They will have no serious language developmental problems and each language will develop in its own right.

### Feedback on Question 2

According to Louw and Louw (2014, p. 235) most research show "that children of bilingual parents who have learnt both languages from infancy have no serious language developmental problems." One language also does not dominate the other in the long run, but both languages will develop sufficiently.

This means that alternatives (1) and (2) are incorrect and (3) is the correct answer. Please see p. 235.

### Question 3

The environmental elicitation process, through which temperament shapes personality and adaptation in childhood, refers to the assumption that temperament shapes ...

- (1) the child's experience of classical and operant conditioning.
- (2) responses of adults and peers to children.
- (3) the ways in which children alter, modify and manipulate their experiences.

### Feedback on Question 3

The child's characteristics can evoke responses from people in his or her environment. An easy child will be treated differently from a difficult child. Research has shown that the child's temperament will therefore shape adults' and peers' responses towards him or her. Alternative (2) is therefore correct.

Alternatives (1) and (3) are incorrect statements.

Please see p. 255.

### Question 4

Barry does moderately in his school work and has a few friends. Although he desperately wants to do well in sport and practices every afternoon, he never makes the school team in any of the sports. His two older brothers do well in sport and his parents are pressuring him to take part in all the sport activities at school. He is also teased by his peers because he cannot catch, kick or hit a ball well and because he is somewhat overweight and cannot run fast. Barry is probably experiencing a ...

- (a) low general self-esteem.
- (b) moderate academic and social self-esteem.
- (c) high academic and social self-esteem and low athletic and physical self-esteem.
- (d) low physical and sport self-esteem.

The correct answer is:

- (1) (a) & (c)
- (2) (b) & (d)
- (3) (a), (b) & (d)

### Feedback on Question 4

Self-esteem is related to the feedback that children receive about their performance. Barry performs moderately with regard to his schoolwork and has a few friends and will therefore have a moderate academic and social self-esteem. He does not do well in sport and his parents put pressure on him to perform as well as his brothers, but he does not have the physical abilities to do well in sport. He will therefore have a low physical and sport self-esteem which will also affect his overall self-esteem to be low, because his parents and peers do not let him feel positively about himself.

The correct answer therefore is (3). Please see p. 258.

### Question 5

When children prove to their parents that they can manage certain tasks on their own, effective parents gradually shift control to the child. Parents still maintain control and supervision, while children are permitted to make moment-to-moment decisions. This process is called ...

- (1) transitional parenting.
- (2) co-regulation.
- (3) cooperative parenting.

**Feedback on Question 5**

When parents are still in control, but permit children to make certain decisions, there is a co-operative relationship between parent and child. The term co-regulation is used and refers to mutual respect and a give-and-take relationship. Alternative (2) is therefore correct and this is explained on p. 263.

The terms in the other two alternatives are not correct.

**Question 6**

Consequences for the victims of bullying may be ...

- (a) psychosomatic symptoms, such as headaches, stomach aches, enuresis, poor body posture.
- (b) emotional problems, such as depression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies.
- (c) social problems, such as withdrawal, isolation.
- (d) educational problems, such as school absence, loss of concentration, poor academic performance.

The correct answer is:

- (1) (a) & (c)
- (2) (b) & (d)
- (3) All of the above

**Feedback on Question 6**

Bullying seems to be a widespread problem in all schools and it seems that many children do not report that they are being bullied because of the negative reactions of teachers and parents when children report it (Louw & Louw, 2014).

Bullying has negative consequences for the victims' physical, emotional, social and educational well-being. All the alternatives are correct – therefore the correct answer is (3). Please see bullying on p. 280-282.

**Question 7**

Early-maturing girls (especially in Western oriented communities) ...

- (1) have higher self-esteem than later-maturing girls.
- (2) tend to show poorer academic performance.
- (3) have fewer conduct problems than later-maturing girls.

**Feedback on Question 7**

Research findings show that early maturation is a disadvantage for Western girls with regard to many aspects. One of the negative effects is that it is related to poor academic performance. Alternative (2) is therefore correct.

If you study the research findings on p. 311 you will see that alternatives (1) and (3) are incorrect with regard to Western adolescent girls, but not necessarily for African adolescents.

### Question 8

Piaget's approach to cognitive development is constructive in nature because it ...

- (a) assumes that individuals must continually interpret or make sense of all experiences.
- (b) assumes that events remain ambiguous until individuals respond to them.
- (c) refers to the breaking down of the thinking process into various components.

The correct answer is:

- (1) (a) & (b)
- (2) (b) & (c)
- (3) All of the above

### Feedback on Question 8

Louw and Louw (2014) distinguish between constructive, componential and psychometric approaches. Piaget's approach is a constructive one, which proposes that events seem to be uncertain/ambiguous to individuals until they respond and make sense of it. Alternatives (a) and (b) are therefore correct and the correct answer is (1). This information you will find on p. 324-325.

The componential approach refers to the breaking down of the thinking process into various components (alternative (c)). This alternative is therefore incorrect.

### Question 9

Adolescents' advances in their cognitive abilities have implications for their classroom performance such as ...

- (a) abstract and logical thought required for subjects such as mathematics, science and literature.
- (b) advances in metacognition, which has an influence on monitoring their study skills.
- (c) the broader conceptualisation of intelligence, which implies that most adolescents at least have the potential to succeed in some area.
- (d) fundamental changes brought about in the conceptual structures of language development.

The correct answer is:

- (1) (a) & (d)
- (2) (b) & (c)
- (3) All of the above

### Feedback on Question 9

If you study p. 332-333 you will find that adolescents' cognitive abilities enable them to apply abstract thought, and that they have advanced metacognition, intelligence in some or other area and a better understanding of language. All the alternatives are therefore correct and the answer is (3).

**Question 10**

Which of the following is TRUE regarding the development of adolescents' personality traits?

- (a) Extraversion increases in boys and decreases in girls.
- (b) Neuroticism generally decreases.
- (c) Agreeableness generally decreases.
- (d) Conscientiousness generally decreases due to increased risk-taking opportunities.
- (e) Openness generally shows no change.

The correct answer is:

- (1) (c)
- (2) (d)
- (3) (a), (b) & (e)

**Feedback on Question 10**

In your studying of temperament and personality traits in earlier stages, you noticed that research is mostly focused on the stability or change in these traits. In Table 6.3 on p. 340 the major changes that take place during adolescence is summarised. There you will see what characteristics increase, decrease or are stable in adolescents. The only correct alternative with regard to the research findings is (d) which means that alternative (2) is the correct answer.

**Question 11**

Although Erikson's theory of identity development is highly regarded, the following shortcomings have been revealed in his theoretical assumptions:

- (a) the use of the term *crisis* or *identity crisis* may create the impression of the process of identity development as an intense traumatic experience, while for most adolescents it is not a traumatic experience at all.
- (b) Erikson's view that identity development occurs early in adolescence is optimistic, since most adolescents experience it much later.
- (c) Adolescents do not form their identity simultaneously in all areas as has been implied by Erikson.

The correct answer is:

- (1) (a)
- (2) (b) & (c)
- (3) All of the above

**Feedback on Question 11**

According to research findings adolescents' identity crisis is not necessarily an intense traumatic experience, and many of them mostly feel good about themselves. They usually form their identity in late adolescence and also do not form their identity simultaneously in all areas. These research findings revealed some shortcomings in Erikson's theory with regard to the above mentioned aspects. This evaluation of Erikson's theory can be found on p. 343-344.

All the statements are correct, and the correct answer therefore is (3).

### Question 12

Which of the following statements is/are FALSE regarding adolescents' strive towards autonomy?

- (a) In their development towards autonomy it is important that adolescents still maintain attachment bonds with their parents.
- (b) In their development towards autonomy secure attachment may serve as a buffer against feelings of anxiety and uncertainty.
- (c) Secure attachment bonds promote successful relationships outside the family.
- (d) Attachment bonds with parents have to be severed in order for adolescents to live their lives as they want to.
- (e) Attachment bonds with parents provide adolescents with a secure base from which to explore the world.

The correct answer is:

- (1) (a)
- (2) (d)
- (3) (b), (c) & (e)

### Feedback on Question 12

Please note that the correct answer in this case will be the **incorrect** statement/s.

It is important to notice that a secure attachment bond between parent and adolescent play an important role in the adolescent's development of autonomy, successful relationships outside the family and that it provides a secure base to explore. It also provides a buffer against negative feelings in adolescents. This information can be found on p. 364.

The only incorrect alternative is therefore (d) which states that attachment bonds with parents have to be discarded. The correct answer therefore is (2).

### Question 13

Which of the following statements regarding adolescents' moral development is TRUE?

- (a) Because of their abstract thinking abilities, adolescents are able to fully integrate moral principles.
- (b) As their lives become more complex, they increasingly develop qualities and capacities related to moral functioning.
- (c) Adolescents' moral experiences and expertise form the foundation of moral character, identity and behaviour in adulthood.

The correct answer is:

- (1) (a)
- (2) (b) & (c)
- (3) All of the above



### Feedback on Question 13

The stage of adolescence with its more complexities and demands made on the individual, leads to the need for an increasing development of moral functioning. Adolescence is an important stage for moral development because adolescents' advanced cognitive abilities enable them to have a better understanding of moral principles. In this stage the basis is also laid for becoming a responsible and moral adult. All the alternatives are therefore correct and the answer is (3). This information can be found on p. 380.

### Question 14

Which one of the following statements is TRUE with regard to relationships in stepfamilies?

- (1) Boys with stepfathers are less likely to develop psychological problems than boys in single-parent families.
- (2) Girls with stepfathers are less likely to develop psychological problems than girls in single-parent families.
- (3) Boys with stepfathers are less likely to develop psychological problems than girls in single-parent families.

### Feedback on Question 14

On p. 399 it is clearly stated that most researchers agree that boys with stepfathers are less likely to develop psychological problems than boys in single-parent families. The (1) alternative is therefore correct.

The other two alternatives (2) & (3) give situations that were not specifically found by research.

Many children in our days are subjected to parents divorcing and it is encouraging to see that it was found that most children in stepfamilies adjust well.

### Question 15

Which of the following statements are TRUE regarding children's experience of trauma?

- (1) Most children's reactions to trauma are the same.
- (2) Reactions to a traumatic event do not have to occur immediately after the event.
- (3) There is not much difference in children's reactions to trauma according to their age.

### Feedback on Question 15

Traumatic events happen often and it is important to know how children will react. The most important fact is that children differ and that children will react differently to the same kind of event and that children of various ages may also act differently according to their level of emotional development. Therefore alternatives (1) and (3) are incorrect.

Alternative (2) is correct, stating that reactions do not always occur immediately after the event – an important fact to remember. This is discussed on p. 428. There you will also find that they refer to later reactions to trauma as the sleeper effect.