

Education and Psychology: Second-round Sample Tasks for the Open Doors Master's and Doctoral Track

This sample test comprises 30 tasks, including: 18 entry-level tasks with a single correct answer, each correct answer assigned 1 point; 9 intermediate-level tasks with multiple correct answers, each correct answer is assigned up to 5 points; 3 advanced-level tasks requiring a detailed answer, each answer assigned 12 to 13 points, depending on its correctness and completeness. For advanced-level tasks requiring a detailed answer, assessment criteria and a standard answer are provided.

Assessment criteria

1. Clarity—the solution must present ideas and arguments clearly, concisely, and in an understandable form.
2. Evidence—the response must be supported by evidence from reliable sources such as scientific studies, textbooks, or monographs.
3. Critical analysis—a critical examination of the educational issues in question, including a detailed statement of personal stance or practical suggestions for potential improvements or solutions.

Field of Science 1. Education and Pedagogy

Task 1

Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following is the central idea underpinning Anton Makarenko's pedagogical approach?

- a) Education through physical punishment
- b) **Productive labor in self-governing child collectives**
- c) Labor conscription
- d) Penitentiary education

Task 2

Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following is part of regulatory support for the educational process?

- a) Determining the color of textbooks
- b) Developing software for computer courses
- c) **Ensuring the legality and stability of the educational environment**

Task 3

Entry level (1 point)

Which researcher did NOT engage with methodological issues in Russian pedagogy?

- a) Alexander Novikov
- b) Vladimir Zagvyazinsky
- c) **Igor Ivanov**

Task 4

Intermediate level (5 points)

Which TWO of the following are not involved in action research as a tool of the educational practitioner?

- a) Studying a problem situation as a system and simultaneously cooperating with the participants of this system to solve the problem
- b) Identification of the problem, selection of ways and methods of its solution, and reflection on the obtained results with subsequent correction if necessary
- c) **Study of the problem situation at the theoretical level and its immediate solution**
- d) Active cooperation between researchers and research participants; co-education as the main aspect of the research process
- e) **A researcher operating independently of research participants, reflecting on the results and making adjustments if needed**

Task 5
Intermediate level (5 points)

Which TWO of the following best describe pedagogical control?

- a) **A system of scientifically grounded verification of students' educational outcomes**
- b) A specially organized interaction between older (teaching) and younger (learning) generations aimed at the transfer and acquisition of social experience necessary for life and work in society
- c) A complex characteristic of a research method, including its suitability for measuring the intended constructs and its effectiveness and practical utility
- d) **A process of identifying, measuring, and evaluating students' knowledge, skills, and abilities**

Task 6
Advanced level (12 points)

Analyze the problem situation and respond to the questions. Your response should be between 1000 and 1200 characters, including spaces.

Design a plan for the digitalization of the educational process in a preschool educational institution. Answer the questions below.

1. What interests do state supervisory bodies, teaching staff, parents, and pupils pursue in the digitalization process?
2. What technical equipment is necessary to fully digitalize all educational processes in a kindergarten?
3. What digital competencies should teachers have?
4. What digital educational products—educational platforms, software, online courses, online resources, etc.—are required for the digitalization of a kindergarten's educational process?

Field of Science 2. Educational Psychology

Task 7
Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following terms did Lev Vygotsky apply to the theoretical concept describing the range of tasks a child cannot master independently but can accomplish with adult assistance?

- a) Period of early preschool age
- b) Period of transition age
- c) Adolescent period
- d) Zone of proximal development**

Task 8

Entry level (1 point)

Which type of activity—aimed at broadening the outlook, acquiring new knowledge, developing skills, and forming the ability to solve various problems—is central for primary school pupils?

- A) game activity
- B) sports activity
- C) modeling, drawing, and appliqué
- D) learning activity**

Task 9

Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following is considered in psychology the central type of activity for preschool children, involving the reproduction of adult life, work, and relationships, and addressing cognitive, aesthetic, and moral needs?

- A) play activity**
- B) sports activity
- C) modeling, drawing, and appliqué
- D) singing

Task 10

Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following lists the components of the structure of learning activity according to Daniil Elkonin?

- a) Plot, content, roles, imaginary situation, rules, game actions and operations, and game relations
- b) Subject of communication, object of communication, actions of communication, means of communication, and product of communication
- c) Learning and cognitive motives, learning task and learning operations, control over the correctness and completeness of operations, and evaluation**
- d) Creative position, creative expression, and creative product

Task 11

Intermediate level (5 points)

Which TWO of the following best describe the process of pedagogical communication?

- a) professional communication between a teacher and students within a holistic pedagogical process, encompassing both the organization of teacher–student relationships and the regulation of communication within the learner community**

- b) exchange of information between people or teams to solve problems, achieve goals, or optimize processes in an organization
- c) **a multidimensional process of organization, establishment, and development of communication, mutual understanding, and interaction between teachers and learners, driven by the goals and content of their joint activities**
- d) exchange of actions, operations, professional skills, and abilities, as well as in collaborative performance of certain work

Task 12
Intermediate level (5 points)

Analyze the problem situation and respond to the questions. Your response should be between 1000 and 1200 characters, including spaces.

A student failed to complete homework for the first time. When the teacher asked, “Why didn’t you do your homework?” the student gave a vague answer. The teacher decided to overlook the lapse, provided the student completed the assignment by the next lesson. However, the following day, the student again came to class without the homework completed. The teacher gave an unsatisfactory mark, prompting the student to storm out of the classroom and slam the door loudly.

- 1) What are the possible reasons for the student’s behavior?
- 2) How would you respond if a similar situation arose in your class?
- 3) What is the appropriate way to handle this situation?
- 4) What interventions should be implemented with the pupils?

Task 13
Advanced level (12 points)

Analyze the problem situation by considering the given determinants. Your response should be between 1000 and 1200 characters, including spaces.

As a teacher aiming to increase your students’ level of patriotism, choose an appropriate research method from educational psychology. Describe a) the steps involved; b) the content of the method; c) potential solutions to the research problem. Consider the following research methods used in educational psychology.

- 1) Observation—the most common empirical method for purposeful study of humans in educational psychology.
- 2) Laboratory or natural experiment—involves setting the goal, planning the experiment, collecting data, and analyzing results.
- 3) Conversation—an empirical method for obtaining information about a person through communication, widely used in educational psychology.
- 4) Questionnaire—an empirical socio-psychological method for gathering information based on answers to tailored questions.
- 5) Analysis of educational activity outcomes—a mediated empirical study method involving analysis and interpretation of material and ideal products of activity.
- 6) Testing—a method consisting of a set of tasks designed to measure the development level of a specific psychological quality in a person.

Field of Science 3. Special Education

Task 14 Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following is a secondary impairment associated with hearing loss?

- a) **Delayed speech development**
- b) Impaired cognitive development
- c) Limited communication skills

Task 15 Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following is the primary educational goal for individuals with severe and profound intellectual disabilities?

- a) Acquisition of basic scientific knowledge
- b) Acquisition of fundamental knowledge about the world
- c) **Development of life skills and competencies**

Task 16 Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following is a sign of general speech impairment?

- a) Stuttering
- b) Slowing down or acceleration of the rate of speech
- c) **Underdevelopment of pronunciation, difficulties in mastering speech patterns**

Task 17 Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following is part of an inclusive educational environment for students with intellectual disabilities (mild cognitive impairment)?

- a) Ramps and lifts to ensure mobility
- b) Use of sign language by the teacher when explaining learning tasks
- c) **Simplified learning tasks**

Task 18 Intermediate level (5 points)

Which of the following statements is true?

- a) Students with disabilities always have disability status.
- b) **Students with disabilities may or may not have disability status.**

Task 19 Intermediate level (5 points)

Which of the following is NOT part of inclusive education?

ONE CLICK TO OPEN ALL DOORS

- a) Full inclusion
- b) Partial inclusion
- c) **Spontaneous inclusion**
- d) Episodic inclusion

Field of Science 4. Psychology

Task 20 Entry level (1 point)

Within which theory is self-efficacy a central concept?

- a) **Albert Bandura's social learning theory**
- b) Alexei Leontiev's activity theory
- c) Mihály Csíkszentmihályi's flow theory
- d) none of the above

Task 21 Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following types is included in Carl Jung's personality typology?

- a) Existential type
- b) Emotional type
- c) **Introverted feeling type**
- d) Creative type

Task 22 Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following types of intelligence are featured in Raymond Cattell's theory?

- a) **Crystallized and fluid intelligence**
- b) Build-up and fixed intelligence
- c) Social and emotional intelligence
- d) None of the above

Task 23 Intermediate level (5 points)

Which THREE of the following are not included in David Morgan's typology of mixed methods designs?

- a) **Statistically orientated mixed types**
- b) Empowering quantitative data in a qualitative design
- c) **Explanatory sequential design**
- d) **Mixed design based on qualitative comparative analysis**

Task 24 Intermediate level (5 points)

Which THREE of the following are elements in the emotional intelligence structure according to Peter Salovey and John D. Mayer?

- a) **Emotion identification**
- b) Stress management
- c) **Conscious management of emotions**
- d) **Understanding and analyzing emotions**

Task 25
Advanced level (13 points)

Analyze the problem situation by considering the given determinants. Your response should be between 1000 and 1200 characters, including spaces.

At the current stage of psychological science development, interdisciplinary studies of human development are gaining importance. For instance, research in cognitive neuroscience and education is increasingly sought after. Write an essay addressing the following questions and include an example of a case study.

- 1) What factors determine the relevance of research in cognitive neuroscience and education?
- 2) What are the primary advantages and limitations of research in cognitive neuroscience and education?
- 3) Provide an example of completed or potential interdisciplinary research in cognitive neuroscience and education.

In your essay, support your arguments with findings from published research, scientific theories, expert opinions, and an example of research you are familiar with.

Field of Science 5. Applied Psychology

Task 26
Entry level (1 point)

For which of the following is discriminant validity essential?

- a) Objective psychodiagnostic techniques
- b) Subjective psychodiagnostic techniques
- c) **Multidimensional psychodiagnostic techniques**
- d) None of the above

Task 27
Entry level (1 point)

Which of the following is a conflict management method?

- a) Sociological method
- b) Testing method
- c) **Cartography method**
- d) Experimentation method

Task 28
Entry level (1 point)

Which authors divide conduct disorders into socialized forms of antisocial behavior and unsocialized aggressive behavior?

- A) Albert Bandura and Michael Rutter
- B) Alexei Bodalev and Anatoly Sukhov
- C) **Ernest Hilgard and Kohlberg**
- D) Viktorya Kudryavtseva and Svetlana Belicheva

Task 29
Entry level (1 point)

The violation of which of the following lies at the core of deviant behavior?

- a) **Social norms**
- b) Traditions
- c) Humanistic attitudes
- d) Ethical norms

Task 30
Intermediate level (5 points)

Which TWO of the following are not types of escape from reality according to Nossrat Peseschkian?

- a) **Escape into emotions**
- b) Escape into the body
- c) Escape into work
- d) **Escape into illness**
- e) Escape into contact or loneliness
- f) Escape into fantasy