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Major Theories of Intelligence

Intelligence has been a topic of debate and contention throughout history, especially in the field of psychology. There is no standard definition of intelligence to date. The concept of intelligence can be understood in different ways. While some theorists and researchers suggest that intelligence is a single and general ability, others say that it encompasses a range of skills and aptitudes

Different Theories Of Intelligence

Over time, researchers have developed several contrasting theories of intelligence in psychology

Two-Factor Theory Of Intelligence

Charles Spearman, a British psychologist, came up with one of the earliest theories of intelligence. He studied the results of the test conducted by Binet and Simon

For example, Charles Spearman, a British psychologist observed that a student who performed well in math also performed well in music. He hypothesized that there's a single underlying factor that helps an individual utilize corresponding abilities.

Charles Spearman, a British psychologist called this 'generalized' form of intelligence the 'g' factor, which can lead to a 'specialized' form of intelligence called the 's' factor. In other words, the 'g' factor is the sum of multiple s-factor scores. This came to be known as the Two-Factor Theory of intelligence in psychology. Intelligence quotient tests, which measures one's general cognitive abilities, are derived from Spearman's theory of general intelligence

Gardner's Multiple Intelligences

Howard Gardner, a developmental psychologist, was best known for his multiple intelligences theory. He outlined eight major types of intelligence

Naturalistic Intelligence

Having a strong connection with the outside world and the ability to categorize objects in nature.

Musical Intelligence

The ability to recognize and produce sound, rhythm, pitch and timbre.

Logical-Mathematical Intelligence

The ability to think conceptually and use deductive reasoning to identify logical patterns or concepts.

Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence

The ability to control the physical form, like your bodily movements, and be effective physical communicators.

Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence

The ability to convey or communicate ideas, feelings or theories. There's sensitivity to sound and meaning of words.

Visual-Spatial Intelligence

The ability to relate well to the surrounding environment. It's the capacity to visualize thoughts and draw mental maps.

Interpersonal Intelligence

The ability to understand others by using emotional intelligence. It's the capacity to detect the mood and motivation of others.

Intrapersonal Intelligence

The ability to be self-aware and self-knowing. It's also called the intelligence of the self.

Triarchic Theory Of Intelligence

American psychologist Robert Sternberg proposed the Triarchic Theory after Gardner's theory. It was a three-category approach that addressed the gaps in Gardner's theory of intelligence in psychology, According to Sternberg, the concept of intelligence involves three different factors

Analytical Intelligence

It refers to a person's ability to assess information and how they use the information to analyze problems and arrive at solutions.

Creative Intelligence

The ability to do something in a novel or innovative way in order to create new ideas or experiences. It involves imagination and problem-solving skills.

Practical Intelligence

The ability to solve problems in daily life and adapt to changing environments. People with practical intelligence are also called 'street smart'

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- 1. The theory of multiple intelligence says that**
 - A. intelligence can be of several kinds**
 - paper-pencil tests are not helpful
 - intelligence can be multiplied with effective pedagogy
 - intelligence can be rapidly accelerated
- 2. Creativity is thought to be related to the concept of _____**
 - crystallized intelligence
 - convergent thinking
 - C. divergent thinking**
 - fluid intelligence
- 3. In _____ thinking, a child as a problem solver evaluates the truth or likelihood of statements.**
 - aesthetic
 - abstract
 - C. logical**
 - creative
- 4. The task in which the children get experience while enjoying themselves is known as**
 - consumer type task
 - producer type task
 - problem type task
 - D. drill and practice task**
- 5. Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligence (MI) suggests that:**
 - A. Teachers should use MI as a framework for devising alternative ways to teach the subject matter**
 - Ability is destiny and does not change over a period of time
 - Every child should be taught every subject in eight different ways in order to develop all of the intelligences
 - Intelligence is solely determined by IQ tests

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