

## School Psychology Exam

Total time allowed for the exam: 2 hours. The exam consists of 120 multiple choice items. Typically, each question has four answer choices but some questions may have five answer choices. The questions focus on content and process issues pertinent to a school setting.

### HOW IS THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY EXAM CONSTRUCTED

Of course there are multiple versions of this exam created from a large pool of questions to test your ability of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. You won't pass this exam by memorization, you will need to apply the knowledge you learned in graduate school and the practical application gained through your internship in a school setting.

There are five content areas measured by the exam: Diagnosis and Fact Finding, Prevention and Intervention, Applied Psychological Foundations, Applied Educational Foundations; and Ethical and Legal Considerations.

The Exam question percentage breakdown is as follows:

- 25% - Diagnosis and Fact Finding (~30 questions)
- 25% - Prevention and Intervention (~30 questions)
- 20% - Applied Psychological Foundations (~24 questions)
- 12% - Applied Educational Foundations (~14 questions)
- 18% - Ethical and Legal Considerations (~22 questions)

#### I) **Diagnosis and Fact Finding**

- **Initial Fact Gathering**- interview and observation methods, student and medical records
- **Assessment**- cognitive tests, behavioral tests, projective measures, adaptive/functional tests, Functional Behavioral Assessment, performance or curriculum based assessment.
- **Assessment of Special Needs and Problematic Behavior**- Techniques for determining educational needs of special populations and methods for determining problem behaviors.

#### II) **Prevention and Intervention**

- **Cognitive and Behavioral Prevention and Intervention**- Methods and research relating to cognitive and behavioral prevention and intervention.
- **Intervention with Special Populations**- Intervention with mental, medical, or learning disabilities. Intervention with diverse students and families.
- **Academic Intervention and Prevention**- Adjusting curriculum, research related to educational systems and prevention of educational failure, discipline and classroom management techniques, remediation methods.
- **Crisis Intervention and Prevention**- techniques and planning for crisis responses.

- **Other Counseling Skills/Techniques**- methods for ages 0-21, time management, computer skills related to school psychology, stress management, leadership, communication.

### **III) Applied Psychological Foundations**

- **Knowledge of General Principles**- biological basis of behavior, common prescription medications, substance abuse, research and theories related to abnormal, human learning, personality, and social psychology, educational development across lifespan, language development.
- **Knowledge of Testing Theory and Principles**- advantages and disadvantages of different testing procedures, common tests, factors which may influence test results, measurement.

### **IV) Applied Educational Foundations**

- Ideologies of learning and teaching, needs of exceptional students

### **V) Ethical and Legal Considerations**

- **Ethical Principles and Standards for Practice**- professional standards for conduct and standards for tests.
- **Legal issues related to the practice of school psychology**- court cases, rights of students, laws regarding students with disabilities, freedom of information acts.