

CHAPTER 1

An Introduction to Forensic Psychology

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following is *not* a likely activity of a clinical forensic psychologist?
 - a. studying the effects of lighting conditions on eyewitness recall
 - b. evaluating the parents of a troubled teen for custody and access recommendations
 - c. delivering treatment programs to high risk sex offenders
 - d. assessing juvenile delinquents in detention centres for behavioural problems
 - e. practising relaxation techniques with police officers on leave due to burnout

Answer: a Difficulty: easy Page: 4–5

2. What is the main difference between a clinical forensic psychologist and a forensic psychiatrist?
 - a. Forensic psychiatrists cannot provide expert testimony in court.
 - b. Clinical forensic psychologists can prescribe medication.
 - c. Forensic psychiatrists aren't concerned with mental health issues.
 - d. Clinical forensic psychologists rely more on a medical model of mental illness.
 - e. Forensic psychiatrists are medical doctors.

Answer: e Difficulty: easy Page: 5

3. Which task is likely to be performed by an experimental forensic psychologist?
 - a. examining the effects of judges' instructions on jury verdicts
 - b. providing expert testimony
 - c. examining the effects of correctional programs on reoffending rates
 - d. studying the effects of police stress on job satisfaction
 - e. all of the above

Answer: e Difficulty: easy Page: 6–7

4. Which of the following is an example of "psychology in the law"?
 - a. a psychologist providing expert testimony in court on the accuracy of eyewitness identification
 - b. examining how we can improve the assessment of fitness to stand trial
 - c. validating a tool for predicting risk of violence
 - d. a researcher examining factors that affect police decision making in a lab setting
 - e. studying the impact of a new interrogation technique to see if it decreases the likelihood that people will make false confessions

Answer: a Difficulty: moderate Page: 8

5. Judges currently use findings from psychological research to decide whether a witness on the stand is lying or not. This is a good example of:
- psychology and the law
 - psychology in the law
 - informational influence
 - Normalization
 - psychology of the law

Answer: b Difficulty: easy Page: 8

6. Alfred Binet conducted a series of studies to examine how question style influenced the accuracy of child eyewitnesses. He found that:
- moderately leading questions result in the most accurate answers
 - free recall results in the most accurate answers
 - highly leading questions result in the most accurate answers
 - free recall results in the least accurate answers
 - eyewitness accuracy did not vary across question type

Answer: b Difficulty: moderate Page: 9

7. A researcher arranges for a confederate to enter his classroom, steal his wallet, and run out. The researcher then asks the students to provide a description of the “offender” in an effort to study eyewitness recall. This is an example of:
- a verifiable experiment
 - a virtual experiment
 - a reality experiment
 - a misinformation test
 - a subjective recall test

Answer: c Difficulty: easy Page: 9–10

8. Stern’s 1901 “reality experiment” involved a bogus quarrel between two students in which a gun was involved. Stern concluded that:
- racial discrimination is common
 - pre-trial media has a strong influence on eyewitness accuracy
 - retroactive memory-falsification tends to occur
 - emotional arousal influences accuracy of recall
 - none of the above

Answer: d Difficulty: moderate Page: 9–10

9. Place the following events in chronological order:
- 1–Cattell conducts some of the first experiments in North America on the psychology of testimony
 - 2–APA recognizes forensic psychology as a speciality discipline
 - 3–Hugo Munsterberg publishes *On the Witness Stand*
 - 4–The U.S. Supreme courts lays out the *Daubert* criteria for determining when scientific evidence should be admitted in court
- a. 4, 2, 3, 1
 - b. 3, 4, 2, 1
 - c. 4, 3, 2, 1
 - d. 1, 2, 3, 4
 - e. 1, 3, 4, 2

Answer: e Difficulty: hard Page: 10

10. The following psychologist was the first to propose a testable theory of criminal behaviour:
- a. Bandura
 - b. Freud
 - c. Munsterberg
 - d. Eysenck
 - e. Marston

Answer: d Difficulty: hard Page: 10

11. Which of the following psychologists would be most interested in the expert testimony provided by Von Schrenck-Notzing in 1896?
- a. a psychologist interested in the diagnosis of juvenile delinquents
 - b. a psychologist interested in the effect of pre-trial press coverage
 - c. a psychologist interested in the problems with hypnotic interviewing
 - d. a psychologist interested in the accuracy of child eyewitnesses
 - e. a psychologist interested in lie detection

Answer: b Difficulty: moderate Page: 11

12. Which of the following individuals would be most interested to hear about research showing that child eyewitnesses can be highly inaccurate?
- a. Varendonck
 - b. Bandura
 - c. Marston
 - d. Von Schrenck-Notzing
 - e. Eysenck

Answer: a Difficulty: moderate Page: 11

13. Which of the following psychologists would be most interested in the expert testimony provided by Varendonck in 1911?
- a psychologist interested in the diagnosis of juvenile delinquents
 - a psychologist interested in the effect of pre-trial press coverage
 - a psychologist interested in the problems with hypnotic interviewing
 - a psychologist interested in the accuracy of child eyewitnesses
 - a psychologist interested in factors that influence jury decision making

Answer: d Difficulty: moderate Page: 11

14. Who is generally considered the father of forensic psychology?
- John Henry Wigmore
 - Wilhelm Wundt
 - James Ogloff
 - James Cattell
 - Hugo Munsterberg

Answer: e Difficulty: easy Page: 12

15. According to Sheldon's (1949) constitutional theory, which of the following are most likely to become involved with crime?
- ectomorphs
 - mesomorphs
 - those with lesions in the temporal lobe
 - those having experienced maternal deprivation
 - men with two Y chromosomes

Answer: b Difficulty: moderate Page: 13

16. John Bowlby's (1944) theory of crime suggests that the primary cause of antisocial behaviour is:
- low self-control
 - poverty
 - inappropriate role models
 - maternal deprivation
 - chromosomal abnormalities

Answer: d Difficulty: moderate Page: 13

17. According to Sutherland's (1939) differential association theory, crime is the result of?
- a. poverty
 - b. labelling
 - c. learning
 - d. socio-economic strain
 - e. high levels of extraversion and neuroticism

Answer: c Difficulty: moderate Page: 13

18. Which of the following theorists is most closely associated with labelling theories of crime?
- a. Merton
 - b. Becker
 - c. Sutherland
 - d. Bowlby
 - e. Bandura

Answer: b Difficulty: easy Page: 13

19. According to Eysenck, which of the following would be at risk for criminal behaviour?
- a. someone with good conditionability
 - b. someone with low levels of extraversion and neuroticism
 - c. someone with high levels of extraversion and neuroticism
 - d. someone who is easy to socialize
 - e. someone with low self-control

Answer: c Difficulty: moderate Page: 13

20. The case of *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) has been cited as a significant case in the development of psychology and the law. On what issue in this case did psychologists submit a brief to the Supreme Court?
- a. prejudice and discrimination
 - b. intelligence
 - c. aggression
 - d. inclusion of mitigating factors in death penalty decisions
 - e. gender differences in treatment readiness

Answer: a Difficulty: easy Page: 14

21. The issue in the case of *Jenkins v. United States* (1962) that is of most interest to forensic psychologists is?
- the right for a defendant to plead not guilty by reason of insanity
 - the duty to inform a third party of potential risks
 - the duty to report suspected cases of child abuse
 - the admissibility of expert testimony from psychologists on mental disorders
 - the use of psychology in civil trials

Answer: d Difficulty: easy Page: 14–15

22. Which of the following indicators demonstrates that forensic psychology has established itself as a field?
- the development of professional associations that represent the interests of forensic psychologists
 - a consensus on the definition of forensic psychology
 - the fact that forensic psychologists now regularly take on the role of legal scholar
 - the fact that criteria for admitting expert testimony from forensic psychologists have become more lenient
 - widespread prescription privileges for forensic psychologists

Answer: a Difficulty: easy Page: 15

23. What is the main difference between an expert witness and other witnesses in court?
- Expert witnesses are not cross-examined.
 - Expert witnesses can only testify about what they directly observed.
 - Expert witnesses are able to offer their opinion to the court.
 - Expert witnesses are only available for the prosecution.
 - Expert witnesses do not have to meet any criteria before they are allowed to testify.

Answer: c Difficulty: moderate Page: 18

24. What would be considered the most ethical behaviour for a psychologist who is hired as an expert witness?
- provide testimony consistent with the party that hired you
 - ensure that both the defence and the prosecution have an expert witness
 - provide testimony relevant to the case as you understand it
 - discuss your testimony with both the defence team and the prosecution team
 - provide only a written report rather than testify in person

Answer: c Difficulty: easy Page: 18

25. Hess (1987, 1999) describes seven dimensions along which law and psychology differ. Which of the following statements is *false*?
- a. Psychology is nomothetic and law is idiographic.
 - b. Psychology is prescriptive and law is descriptive.
 - c. Psychological knowledge is gained through research and legal knowledge is gained through precedent.
 - d. A psychologist's behaviour is severely limited within the court while the behaviour of a lawyer is less restricted.
 - e. Psychology believes in the quest for objective truths whereas the law defines truth subjectively.

Answer: b Difficulty: moderate Page: 19

26. According to Hess (1987, 1999), which of the following accurately represents a dimension along which law and psychology can be contrasted?
- a. Law is idiographic while psychology is nomothetic.
 - b. Law is descriptive while psychology is prescriptive.
 - c. Law is proactive while psychology is reactive.
 - d. Law is academic while psychology is operational.
 - e. Law defines truth objectively while psychology defines truth subjectively.

Answer: a Difficulty: moderate Page: 19

27. Which of the following was *not* identified by Hess (1987, 1999) as a dimension along which law and psychology differ?
- a. latitude
 - b. principles
 - c. criteria
 - d. purpose
 - e. epistemology

Answer: d Difficulty: moderate Page: 19

28. The "general acceptance test" relates to:
- a. eyewitness recall
 - b. child witnesses
 - c. aggression and segregation in schools
 - d. suggestive questioning techniques
 - e. the admissibility of expert testimony

Answer: e Difficulty: easy Page: 20

29. Which of the following is *not* specified by the *Daubert* criteria, which are used to determine the validity of scientific evidence?
- the research adheres to professional standards
 - the research is falsifiable
 - the research has been peer reviewed
 - the research has a recognized rate of error
 - the research has been conducted in real-world (i.e., non-lab) settings

Answer: e Difficulty: moderate Page: 21

30. Why is the case of *R. v. Mohan* (1994) so important to forensic psychologists?
- It stressed the duty to protect a third party.
 - It dealt with the admissibility of expert evidence.
 - It established guidelines for reporting child abuse.
 - It highlighted the importance of client confidentiality.
 - It dealt with the issue of racial segregation.

Answer: b Difficulty: easy Page: 21

31. According to *R. v. Mohan* (1994), which is *not* a consideration when determining the admissibility of expert testimony?
- The expert must be qualified.
 - The testimony must provide information that goes beyond the jurors' common understanding.
 - The evidence provided must be necessary for assisting the trier of fact.
 - The testimony must have been allowed into evidence by a higher court.
 - The evidence must not violate any rules of exclusion.

Answer: d Difficulty: moderate Page: 21–22

32. What is the significance of the case of *R. v. McIntosh and McCarthy* (1997)?
- It dealt with racial segregation.
 - It raises potential problems with the *Mohan* criteria.
 - It dealt with issues associated with the insanity defence.
 - It highlighted the importance of voluntary (i.e., non-coercive) confessions.
 - It established guidelines for cross-examination.

Answer: b Difficulty: easy Page: 23

SHORT ANSWER

33. Provide a comprehensive (i.e., broad) definition of forensic psychology.

Answer:

- According to Bartol and Bartol (2006), forensic psychology is defined as (a) the research endeavour that examines aspects of human behaviour directly related to the legal process and (b) the professional practice of psychology within or in consultation with a legal system that embraces both civil and criminal law.

Difficulty: moderate *Page:* 4

34. Name the three roles that forensic psychologists can play and describe the sorts of activities that each type of forensic psychologist would be involved in (use examples).

Answer:

- a. Clinician
 - As a clinician, the forensic psychologist is interested in mental health issues as they pertain to the legal system. Activities can include research (e.g., validating an assessment tool) and practice (e.g., making risk assessment decisions).
- b. Researcher
 - As a researcher, the forensic psychologist is concerned with mental health issues as they pertain to the legal system, but also any other research issues that relate to the law or legal system. Examples of potential activities include examining the effectiveness of risk assessment strategies, determining factors that influence jury decision making, studying the impact of questioning style on eyewitness recall, etc.
- c. Legal scholar
 - As a legal scholar, the forensic psychologist is interested in the analysis of mental health law and psychologically oriented legal movements. Most of the activities of the legal scholar revolve around policy analysis (e.g., taser use in police agencies) and legislative consultation (e.g., mandatory arrest legislation in domestic violence cases).

Difficulty: moderate *Page:* 4–7

35. According to Haney (1980), there are three primary ways in which psychology and law relate to one another. Name, define, and provide an example of each.

Answer:

- a. Psychology and the law
 - Psychology is viewed as a separate discipline to the law and is used to test various assumptions made by the law or legal system.
 - E.g., determining whether risk of violence can be accurately predicted using a specific assessment tool
- b. Psychology in the law

- Psychological knowledge is applied directly within the context of the legal system as it operates.
 - E.g., the provision of expert testimony about factors that influence the accuracy of eyewitness identifications in a court case
- c. Psychology of the law
- Psychology is used to study the law itself
 - E.g., a legal scholar examining whether certain laws have helped to reduce the crime rate

Difficulty: hard *Page:* 8

36. What are the three major categories of crime theories discussed in your text? List the three categories and describe a specific theory that fits into each category.

Answer:

- a. Biological theories
- E.g., Sheldon's constitutional theory suggests that body build and temperament are linked; mesomorphs, due to their aggressive nature and muscular build, are more likely to become involved in crime.
- b. Sociological theories
- E.g., Merton's strain theory suggests that certain people (e.g., those from the lower class) have restricted access to legitimate means (e.g., education) to achieve valued goals of success (e.g., high paying jobs); some of these individuals will turn to illegitimate means (e.g., crime) in an attempt to achieve these goals.
- c. Psychological theories
- E.g., Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation suggests that early separation of children from their mothers prevents effective social development from taking place; without effective social development, children will experience problems developing positive social relationships and will instead develop antisocial inclinations.

Difficulty: hard *Page:* 13

37. According to Ogloff and Cronshaw (2001), what are the two main functions of expert witnesses? Also, how do expert witnesses differ from ordinary witnesses in court?

Answer:

- The two main functions of expert witnesses are to provide the court with information that assists them in understanding the issues at hand and to provide the court with an opinion (which must fall within the limits of their areas of expertise).

- Expert witnesses differ from ordinary witnesses in that they are able to provide their opinion on a particular matter, whereas ordinary witnesses are only able to testify about what they have directly observed.

Difficulty: moderate Page: 18

38. Hess (1987, 1999) discusses at least seven different dimensions along which psychology and law differ. List four of these dimensions and define precisely what they mean.

Answer:

- a. Knowledge
 - In psychology, knowledge is gained through cumulative research.
 - In the law, knowledge is acquired through precedent, logical thinking, and case law.
- b. Methodology
 - In psychology, methods are predominantly nomothetic (i.e., goal is to uncover general trends and processes).
 - In the law, the methodological approach is idiographic (i.e., operates on a case-by-case basis).
- c. Nature of law
 - Psychology is descriptive, the goal being to describe how people behave.
 - Law is prescriptive, telling people how they should behave.
- d. Epistemology
 - In psychology, it is assumed that there is an objective truth that can potentially be uncovered using the experimental method.
 - In the law, truth is defined subjectively and is based on who can present the most convincing argument.
- e. Principles
 - In psychology, alternative explanations are considered (i.e., falsifiability).
 - The lawyer's goal is to convince the court that his/her explanation is solely correct.
- f. Criteria
 - Psychology is cautious and conservative in accepting a hypothesis as true (results must be replicated, etc.).
 - Law decides truth on the basis of a single case and a criterion that is far more lenient.
- g. Latitude
 - The behaviour of a psychologist providing expert testimony in court is severely restricted.
 - The behaviour of a lawyer within the court is subject to far fewer restrictions.

The student need only provide four of the seven dimensions to receive full marks.

Difficulty: hard Page: 19

39. What is the “general acceptance test”? What is the main criticism associated with this test?

Answer:

- The general acceptance test is a standard for accepting expert testimony. It states that expert testimony will be admissible in court if the basis of the testimony is generally accepted within the scientific community in which it belongs.
- This test formed the basis for admissibility decisions for many years in the United States; however, the major criticism associated with it comes from the vagueness of terms such as “general acceptance” and “the particular field in which it belongs” and whether judges are able to appropriately determine the scope of these terms.

Difficulty: moderate *Page:* 20

40. What are the *Mohan* criteria? Outline the four criteria and identify a potential problem with them.

Answer:

- a. The *Mohan* criteria are the Canadian criteria which outline factors that should be considered when determining the admissibility of expert testimony in court. The four criteria are:
 - The evidence must be relevant.
 - The evidence must be necessary for assisting the trier of fact (i.e., it goes beyond the common understanding of court).
 - The evidence must not violate any rules of exclusion (i.e., it must not relate to whether a witness is telling the truth).
 - The testimony must be provided by a qualified expert.
- b. These criteria are potentially problematic as they are highly subject to the discretion of the judge and judges can sometimes be wrong (e.g., the judge determines if the evidence actually goes beyond the common understanding of the jury).

Difficulty: hard *Page:* 21–23