**Description of the Examination**

The Human Growth and Development examination (Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence, Adulthood and Aging) covers material that is generally taught in a one-semester introductory course in developmental psychology or human development. An understanding of the major theories and research related to the broad categories of physical development, cognitive development and social development is required, as is the ability to apply this knowledge.

The examination contains approximately 90 questions to be answered in 90 minutes. Some of them are pretest questions that will not be scored.

**Knowledge and Skills Required**

Questions on the CLEP® Human Growth and Development examination require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities:

- Knowledge of basic facts and terminology
- Understanding of generally accepted concepts and principles
- Understanding of theories and recurrent developmental issues
- Applications of knowledge to particular problems or situations

The subject matter of the Human Growth and Development examination is drawn from the following categories. For each category, several key words and phrases identify topics with which candidates should be familiar. The percentages next to the main categories indicate the approximate percentage of exam questions on that topic.

### 10% Biological Development Throughout the Life Span

- Development of the brain and nervous system
- Heredity, genetics and genetic testing
- Hormonal influences
- Influences of drugs
- Motor development
- Nutritional influences
- Perinatal influences
- Physical growth and maturation, aging
- Prenatal influences
- Sexual maturation
- Teratogens

### 7% Perceptual Development Throughout the Life Span

- Sensitive periods
- Sensorimotor activities
- Sensory acuity
- Sensory deprivation

### 12% Cognitive Development Throughout the Life Span

- Attention
- Environmental influences
- Executive function
- Expertise
- Information processing
- Memory
- Piaget, Jean
- Play
- Problem solving and planning
- Thinking
- Vygotsky, Lev
- Wisdom

### 8% Language Development

- Bilingualism
- Development of syntax

### 10% Theoretical Perspectives

- Cognitive developmental
- Evolutionary
- Learning
- Psychodynamic
- Social cognitive
- Sociocultural

### 5% Research Strategies and Methodology

- Case study
- Correlational
- Cross-sectional
- Cross sequential
- Experimental
- Longitudinal
- Observational
CLEP® Human Growth and Development: At a Glance

Environmental, cultural and genetic influences
Language and thought
Pragmatics
Semantic development
Vocalization and sound

**4% Intelligence Throughout the Life Span**
Concepts of intelligence and creativity
Developmental stability and change
Heredity and environment

**10% Social Development Throughout the Life Span**
Aggression
Attachment
Gender
Interpersonal relationships
Moral development
Prosocial behavior
Risk and resilience
Self
Social cognition
Wellness

**8% Family, Home and Society Throughout the Life Span**
Abuse and neglect
Bronfenbrenner, Urie
Death and dying
Family relationships
Family structures
Media and technology
Multicultural perspectives
Parenting styles
Social and class influences

**8% Personality and Emotion**
Attribution styles
Development of emotions

Emotional expression and regulation
Emotional intelligence
Erikson, Erik
Freud, Sigmund
Stability and change
Temperament

**8% Learning**
Classical conditioning
Discrimination and generalization
Habituation
Operant conditioning
Social learning and modeling

**5% Schooling, Work and Interventions**
Applications of developmental principles
Facilitation of role transitions
Intervention programs and services
Learning styles
Occupational development
Preschool care, day care and elder care
Retirement

**5% Atypical Development**
Antisocial behavior
Asocial behavior, fears, phobias and obsessions
Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
Autism spectrum disorders
Chronic illnesses and physical disabilities
Cognitive disorders, including dementia
Genetic disorders
Giftedness
Learning disabilities
Mental retardation
Mood disorders
Trauma-based syndromes
Study Resources
Most textbooks used in college-level human growth and development courses cover the topics in the outline above, but the approaches to certain topics and the emphases given to them may differ. To prepare for the Human Growth and Development exam, it is advisable to study one or more college textbooks, which can be found for sale online and in most college bookstores.

You may also find it helpful to supplement your reading with books and articles listed in the bibliographies found in most developmental psychology textbooks.

Parents and others who work with children may have gained some preparation for this test through experience. However, knowledge of the basic facts, theories and principles of child psychology and lifespan development is necessary to provide background for taking the exam.

A recent survey conducted by CLEP found that the following textbooks are among those used by college faculty who teach the equivalent course. Most of these have companion websites with practice test questions and other study resources. HINT: When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the Knowledge and Skills Required for this test.

In addition, the following resources, compiled by the CLEP test development committee and staff members, may help you study for your exam. However, none of these sources are designed specifically to provide preparation for a CLEP exam. The College Board has no control over their content and cannot vouch for accuracy:

http://ocw.tufts.edu/Course/35/Coursehome
(Tufts Open Courseware--Human Growth and Development)

http://psychology.wikia.com/wiki/Developmental_psychology
(Developmental Psychology wiki)

Visit www.collegeboard.com/clepprep for additional human growth and development resources. You can also find suggestions for exam preparation in Chapter IV of the CLEP Official Study Guide. In addition, many college faculty post their course materials on their schools’ websites.

Sample Test Questions
The following sample questions do not appear on an actual CLEP examination. They are intended to give potential test-takers an indication of the format and difficulty level of the examination and to provide content for practice and review. For more sample questions and info about the test, see the CLEP Official Study Guide.

1. Charles is a businessman who made a great deal of money over the past 20 years. Throughout his life he has always been self-absorbed and competitive in his business dealings and in social settings. He is now 48 years old and has no spouse or children. Charles has decided to start a charitable foundation for the benefit of needy children. Charles is most likely in Erik Erikson’s stage of
(A) industry versus inferiority
(B) generativity versus stagnation
(C) initiative versus guilt
(D) trust versus mistrust
(E) autonomy versus shame and doubt

2. Which of the following research methods would most likely be used when examining the behavior of a group of children on the playground?
(A) Case study
(B) Archival
(C) Observational
(D) Cross-sectional
(E) Experimental
3. According to some researchers, what is the most likely reason that the age of menarche has been decreasing from past decades?
(A) An increase in young women's consumption of nutrients and fatty foods
(B) An increase in physical activity at earlier ages among young women
(C) An increase in the tendency for young women to interact with the opposite sex
(D) A decrease in the quality of health care for young women
(E) A decrease in exposure to environmental estrogens contained in such things as certain plastics and pesticides

4. A cognitive-developmental-stage theorist like Jean Piaget would expect which of the following to be true?
(A) Children perform at a higher stage level when novel tasks and materials are used.
(B) Children often skip one stage of development when their IQs fall in the gifted range.
(C) Children in different cultures go through the same stages in the same order.
(D) Children move from one stage to the next stage more quickly in response to intense training.
(E) Children move through the stages more quickly when they are rewarded for successful problem solving.

5. Research suggests that which of the following types of intelligence may increase throughout the life span?
(A) Fluid
(B) Performance
(C) Mathematical
(D) Crystallized
(E) Spatial

6. Fifteen-year-old Tabatha sees someone steal something from a convenience store. She decides to tell the clerk because she knows that it is important to uphold the laws of society in order to help maintain social order. According to Lawrence Kohlberg's theory, Tabatha is at a level of moral reasoning known as
(A) conventional
(B) preconventional
(C) postconventional

7. Timothy is an 8-year-old who gets into a lot of fights at school, does not do well academically, frequently breaks rules and is self-centered. If Timothy's behavior stems from a particular parenting style, his parents' style of parenting is most likely to be
(A) authoritative
(B) permissive
(C) authoritarian
(D) neglectful
(E) autonomous

8. John tends to be hardworking, ambitious and persevering. He rates high on which of the following Big Five personality dimensions?
(A) Agreeableness
(B) Neuroticism
(C) Extraversion
(D) Openness
(E) Conscientiousness

9. A behaviorist who is studying the link between parenting style and childhood aggression would be most likely to focus on
(A) how parents punish their children's aggressive behavior
(B) how parents in different communities interpret their children's aggressive behavior
(C) what parents believe about their children's aggressive behavior
(D) the point at which parents seek professional advice about their children's aggressive behavior
(E) whether or not parents emotionally reject aggressive children

10. A community decides to improve its health-care system by creating hospices that provide support to families with terminally ill family members. This type of hospice program is an example of
(A) a home health aid program
(B) palliative care
(C) euthanasia
(D) an advance directive
(E) a life review
Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education has recommended that colleges grant 3 credits for a score of 50, which is equivalent to a course grade of C, on the CLEP Human Growth and Development exam. Each college, however, is responsible for setting its own policy. For candidates with satisfactory scores on the Human Growth and Development examination, colleges may grant credit toward fulfillment of a distribution requirement, or for a particular course that matches the exam in content. Check with your school to find out the score it requires for granting credit, the number of credit hours granted and the course that can be bypassed with a passing score.

Answers to Sample Questions: 1-B; 2-C; 3-A; 4-C; 5-D; 6-A; 7-B; 8-E; 9-A; 10-B