"Personality may be defined as the underlying causes ..."

"... how can personality be described?"

"Personality description considers the ways in which we should ..."

"... how can we understand personality dynamics? How do people ..."

"... what can be said about personality development? How does it reflect ..."
"How does personality change over the life of the individual from …"

Description of Personality

Complete the following:

“The most fundamental theoretical question is this: What concepts are useful for …

Differences Between People: Groups or Gradations?

"Personality researchers have devoted considerable effort to … describing individual differences."

Types

Question: What is the type approach to describing individual differences?

[Illustrations] Type approach to describe individual differences.
Traits and Factors

**Question**: What is meant by the following statement?

"… personality researchers generally prefer quantitative measures."

**Question**: What is the **trait** approach to describing individual differences?

**Illustrations**  Trait approach to describe individual differences.

**Question**: What are personality **factors**?
Comparing People or Studying Individuals:
Nomothetic and Idiographic Approaches

**Question:** What is the **nomothetic** approach to describing individual differences?

**Example** Nomothetic approach in personality research.

**Question:** What is meant by the following statement?

"Despite its scientific advantages, the nomothetic method has drawbacks."
Question: What is the idiographic approach to describing individual differences?

"Both nomothetic and idiographic approaches contribute something to personality psychology."

[Examples] Nomothetic and idiographic contributions to personality psychology.

Personality Dynamics

Question: What are personality dynamics?
Personality Dynamics
(Continued)

Adaptation and Adjustment

Question: What are the notions of adaptation and adjustment in personality theory?

Cognitive Processes

Question: What role does thinking play in personality theory?

Culture

Question: What is the history of considering cultural forces in the history of personality psychology?
Personality Development

"Another major issue in personality theory concerns the formation and change of personality."

Biological Influences

**Question:** What is *temperament*? (7)

Experiences in Childhood and Adulthood

"Personality develops over time. Experience, especially in childhood, influences the way each person develops toward his or her unique personality."

[Illustrations] Experiences in childhood and adulthood. (7)
Experiences in Childhood and Adulthood

(Continued)

[Table 1.2  Major Issues that Are Addressed by Personality Theories
Page 8]
The Scientific Approach

"Personality theorists, like psychology theorists more generally, test their assertions about people through the scientific method."

Complete the following:

"The **scientific method** requires systematic … (9)

**Question:** What is meant by the following statement?

"The assumption of **determinism** is central to the scientific method."

**Question:** What's the difference between a **theoretical level** and **observable level** of abstraction?

[Illustrations] Theoretical and observational level of abstraction.
Theory

**Question:** What is a *theory*? 

**Question:** What is a *construct*?

[Examples] Constructs.
Question: What is an operational definition?

Question: What are theoretical propositions?

"To test a theory, predictions about observable phenomena are logically derived from the theoretical propositions."

[Example] Theoretical proposition, hypothesis, and empirical observation.

Complete the following:

"Research tests whether hypotheses derived from theory make …"
Criteria of a Good Theory

Question: Why is it that theories are always somewhat tentative? (11)

Verifiability

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"The most important criterion is that a theory should be verifiable … " (12)
Verifiability (Continued)

[Illustrations] Verifiability and personality theory.

Comprehensiveness

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"... a good theory is characterized by comprehensiveness."

Applied Value

Question: What is the notion of applied value insofar as personality theories are concerned?

"Applied research is conducted to solve practical problems. Basic research is conducted for the purpose of advancing theory and scientific knowledge."

Other Considerations: Parsimony and Heuristic

Question: What is a parsimonious theory?
Other Considerations: Parsimony and Heuristic
(Continued)

Question: What is heuristic value insofar as theories are concerned? (13)

Relationship Between Theory and Research

Question: What is the ideal relationship between research and theory-building?

Question: What are implicit theories of personality?

Methods in Personality Research

Personality Measurement

Reliability

"Measurement should yield consistent scores from one time to another."

Question: What is the method of test-retest reliability? (14)
Reliability
(Continued)

Question: What is the method of alternative forms reliability?

Question: What is the method of split-half reliability?

Question: What is meant by the following statement?
"Problems of unreliability can result from several factors."

Validity

Complete the following:
"Validity is present if a test measures …

Question: What is predictive validity?
Validity (Continued)

[Illustrations] Predictive validity.

Question: What is construct validity?

Measurement Techniques

"Various measurement techniques have been used in personality research."

Question: What are direct self-report measures?

"Alternatively, personality can be measured through indirect methods."

[Illustrations] Indirect personality measurement techniques.
Measurement Techniques (Continued)

"Behavioral measures are sometimes included in personality research."

[Illustrations] Behavioral measures in personality research.

Correlational Studies

"Much personality research is correlational."

Question: What is correlational research?

[Example] Correlational research.

Question: What is the weakness of correlational research?
Experimentation

"In true experimental research, hypothesized cause-effect relationships are put to a direct test."

**Question:** What is the **independent variable** in experimental research? (16)

**Question:** What is the **experimental group** in experimental research?

**Question:** What is the **control group** in experimental research?

**Question:** What is the **dependent variable** in experimental research?

[Illustrations] Experimental research in personality. (16-17)
Question: What is a **case study** in personality research?

Question: What is **psychobiography**?
One Theory or Many? Eclecticism and the Future of Personality Theory

Question: What are meant by the following statements?

"Most personality psychologists prefer the eclectic approach, one that combines insights from … (18)

"… there is no single paradigm … accepted by the entire field of personality." (19)

Complete the following:

"For the most part … theories simply coexist, each developing its own theoretical and research literature. Why?

"First, some of this fragmentation is due to …

"Second, theories may have different …
"Besides the different areas of application, theories specialize in different influences on personality"

“Because diverse psychological processes influence individual personality, and because influences range from the biological to the social, the field of personality may always be more comprehensive than any single theory can encompass, unless it is very broad in scope indeed.”

Table 1.3 Kimble's Analysis of "Scientific" versus "Humanistic" Psychology
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