Preview: Overview of Erikson's Theory

"Erikson's theory has implications for major theoretical questions."

(Table 5.1, Preview of Erikson's Theory, Page 130)
The Epigenetic Principle

Question: What is Erik Erikson's epigenetic principle?

The Eight Psychosocial Stages

"(Erik) Erikson reinterpreted Freud's psychosexual stages, emphasizing the social aspects of each."

Complete the following:

"Further, he extended the stage concept throughout …

"Erikson’s first four stages correspond to Freud's …

"Freud's genital stage encompasses Erikson's …

"Each stage involves a…

"Just as, biologically, heart, arms, and teeth develop most rapidly at different times, so it is with the ego strengths of …

"Out of each crisis emerges an ego …"
The Eight Psychosocial Stages

(Continued)

Complete the following:

"The strength then becomes part of the repertoire of … (132-133)

"Each strength develops in relation to an … (133)

"Though each ego skill has its period of greatest growth at a distinct period in life, earlier developments pave the way for that strength, and later developments can to some extent …

[Example] Ego skill development.

"Each of these stages must be considered not simply from the individual's point of view but also from a …

"An adolescent's identity develops in relationship to the …

"Significant others, as members of society, are …

"Infant development implies not only the infant's needs but also the complementary need of the mother to …
Table 5.3
[Strengths Developed at Each Stage of Psychosocial Development and their Social Context]
Page 133
Stage 1: Trust versus Mistrust

Question: What happens, according to Erik Erikson's theory, when the infant develops a sense of basic trust and basic mistrust?

Stage 2: Autonomy versus Shame and Doubt

Question: What happens, according to Erik Erikson's theory, when the infant develops a sense of autonomy?
Stage 3: Initiative versus Guilt

Question: What happens, according to Erik Erikson's theory, when the child develops a sense of initiative versus guilt?
Stage 4: Industry versus Inferiority

Question: What happens, according to Erik Erikson's theory, when the child develops a sense of industry versus inferiority?

Stage 5: Identity versus Identity Confusion

Question: What happens, according to Erik Erikson's theory, when the adolescent develops a sense of identity?

Question: What is Erik Erikson's concept of identity confusion?
Stage 5: Identity versus Identity Confusion
(Continued)

Question: What is Erik Erikson's concept of negative identity? (136)

Question: What is Erik Erikson's concept of identity foreclosure?

Question: What is Erik Erikson's concept of moratorium?

Stage 6: Intimacy versus Isolation

Question: What happens, according to Erik Erikson's theory, when the adult develops a sense of intimacy versus isolation?
Stage 7: Generativity versus Stagnation

Question: What happens, according to Erik Erikson's theory, when the adult develops a sense of **generativity**?

Question: What is Erik Erikson's concept of **stagnation**?

Stage 8: Integrity versus Despair

Question: What happens, according to Erik Erikson's theory, when the adult develops a sense of **integrity**?

Question: What is Erik Erikson's concept of **despair**?
Complete the following:

"The stages themselves, Erikson said, are universal, but each culture organizes the experience of its members."

The way people resolve each stage … (137)

Culture not only provides the setting in which psychosocial crises are encountered and mastered: It also provides continuing support for the ego …

"Each stage has its own cultural institution to support continuation of the strength that …

The First Stage: Religion

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"Positive developments in the first psychological stage leave one with the capacity for hope."

The Second Stage: Law

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"Positive developments in the second psychosocial stage leave one with the capacity for will … " (137-138)
The Third Stage: Ideal Prototypes

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"The third stage of psychosocial development leaves the child with the basic virtue of purpose."

The Fourth Stage: Technological Elements

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"The sense of competence that develops in the first stage is supported by technological elements in culture …"

The Fifth Stage: Ideological Perspectives

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"The virtue of fidelity, which emerges from the fifth psychosocial stage, enables the individual to be faithful to an ideology."
The Sixth Stage: Patterns of Cooperation and Competition

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"Successful resolution of the sixth stage brings the ego strength that Erikson called a capacity of love." (139)

The Seventh Stage: Currents of Education and Tradition

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"The strength of care develops in the seventh stage of development."

The Eighth Stage: Wisdom

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"The ego strength developed during old age is wisdom …"
"Different societies practice different rituals, each supporting the ego strengths of its members in a unique way."

Question: What is Erik Erikson's concept of ritualisms?

Racial and Ethnic Identity

Question: How did Erik Erikson first notice issues related to identity in his psychotherapeutic practice?

[Examples] Differences among national and ethnic groups on some psychosocial stages.
Question: What is Erik Erikson's concept of *ethnic identity*? (140)

Question: What is Erik Erikson's concept of *gender identity*? (141)

"Recent history has recorded changes in the public image of racial minorities in the United States … "

[Examples] Changes in the public image of racial minorities in the United States.
Racial and Ethnic Identity

**Question:** What has been theorized as the process of resolving identity for minority groups? (141)

Complete the following:

"Erikson envisioned each generation's grappling with identity to be a force that changes the … (142)

**Question:** What did Erik Erikson see as the problem of *pseudospeciation* in his analysis of racial and ethnic identity? (142-143)
Gender

Question: What was Erik Erikson's outlook with respect to differences between males and females?

Children's Play

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"Erikson's description of children's play illustrates his biological orientation."

Evidence: Erik Erikson's investigations of children's play. (143-144)

Figure 5.2 Play Configurations. P. 144
Male and Female Identity Resolution

Complete the following:

"Erikson consistently asserted that males and females are, and should remain, …"

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"Perhaps the biological metaphor of the epigenetic principle itself prevents Erikson's theory from being fully cultural."

[Evidence] Male and female identity resolution within the context of Erikson's theory of psychosocial development.
"Erikson based his theory on clinical evidence."

Identity Status

Complete the following:

"James Marcia reasoned that complete identity development occurs if an individual has experienced a crisis and has come through it with a reasonably firm commitment to an occupation and/or ideology."

"This mature outcome Marcia calls identity achievement."

"Three less mature outcomes are also possible:

identity diffusion, in which neither a …

moratorium, in which a crisis is being currently experienced but no …

and identity foreclosure, in which a commitment has been made without a …

Marcia reasoned that people begin in a state of identity diffusion and must pass through moratorium to identity achievement in order to …

Foreclosure is an undesirable outcome; it can be a permanent …
Other Psychosocial Stages

Complete the following:

"Erikson's proposal of stage sequences predicts that people will become more preoccupied with certain themes at appropriate …" (146)

[Evidence] Other psychosocial stages. (146-147)

Correlates of Stage Measures

"Higher scores on measures of the psychosocial stages are associated with better functioning in several studies."

"Identity is the most frequently studied of Erikson's stages."

[Evidence] Measures of ego identity. (147)
"Intimacy resolution is correlated with self-reported interpersonal behaviors."


"Men who are fathers score higher on measures of generativity than those who have not had children."

"Adults who are highly generative, a sample of schoolteachers and community volunteers, describe their lives with narratives of commitment to alleviate others' suffering and improve their lives and benefit society."


"Ego integrity, as assessed by a written measure, was investigated among elderly males and females living in a nursing home and in a residential apartment complex."
Correlates of Stage Measures (Continued)


Toward a Psychoanalytic Social Psychology

"Like many theorists, Erikson believed that his theoretical concepts had implications for improving the human condition as well as understanding it."

"Erikson clearly envisioned a psychoanalytic approach that would consider social and cultural realities rather than focusing exclusively on the individual, as Freud had done."

"James Côté and Charles Levine have developed such a psychoanalytic social psychology in their research and theorizing."

Question: What is the perspective of psychoanalytic social psychology?