Introduction

Complete the following:

“Most basically, personality psychology asks the question, What does it mean to be a person? In other words, How are we …

“What is the nature of the …

“Personality psychologists tend to avoid abstract philosophical or religious musings and focus instead on the …

“Personality psychology can be defined as the scientific study of the psychological forces that make people …

“To be comprehensive, we can say that personality has eight key aspects, which together help us understand the complex nature of the individual.”

“First, the individual is affected by unconscious aspects, forces that are not in …

“Second, the individual is affected by so-called ego forces that provide a sense of …
Introduction
(Continued)

Complete the following:

“Third, a person is a biological being, with a unique …

“Fourth, people are conditioned and shaped by the …

“Fifth, people have a cognitive dimension, thinking about and …

“Sixth, an individual is a collection of specific …

“Seventh, human beings have a spiritual dimension to their lives, which ennobles them and prompts them to …

“Eighth, … the individual’s nature is an ongoing interaction between the person and …

Personality and Science

“Modern personality psychologists are scientific in the sense that they attempt to use methods of scientific inference (using systematically gathered evidence) to test theories.”

“Some scientists believe that rigorous study of personality must become mathematical and involve numbers—for instance, statistics such as correlations.”

Complete the following:

“A correlation coefficient is a mathematical index of the degree of …
Examples: Correlation.

“Correlations tell us about associations, but not about causal relationships.”

Examples: Correlations as associations.
Where Do Personality Theories Come From?

“Most personality theories have arisen from the careful observations and deep introspection of insightful thinkers.”

Example: Freudian theory.

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"This (Freudian theory) is mostly a deductive approach to personality."

“… some personality theories arise directly out of systematic empirical research.”

Example: Systematic empirical research.

Question: What is an inductive approach to personality?
Where Do Personality Theories Come From?
(Continued)

“(Another) source of personality theories involves analogies and concepts borrowed from related disciplines.”

Example: Analogies and concepts borrowed from related disciplines.  

Question: Why is it difficult to proved a theoretical approach to personality entirely “wrong.”

Preview of the Perspectives

Overview of the Eight Perspectives

[Table 1.1, The Eight Basic Aspects of Personality]
Page 8
Are Personality Aspects Really Separable?

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"… it is a weak strategy to rely too much on one approach (to study personality)."

A Brief History of Personality Psychology

[Time Line of the History of Personality Psychology]
Page 10
[Time Line of the History of Personality Psychology]
Page 11
# Theater and Self-Presentation

“Some of the roots of personality can be traced to the theater.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples: Theatrical notions and personality psychology.</th>
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</table>

# Religion

“Other aspects of personality psychology can be traced to religious ideas.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples: Religious influences on conceptions of personality.</th>
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Evolutionary Biology

“The most direct influences on modern personality psychology can be traced to developments in the biological sciences during the nineteenth century.”

Examples: Influence of evolutionary biology on modern personality. (13-14)

Testing

Breakthroughs in personality and intelligence testing helped shape both the theories and the methods of modern personality psychology.

Examples: Personality and intelligence testing. (14 & 16)
Modern Theory

“Modern personality theory began to take formal shape in the 1930s. It was heavily influenced by the work of three men—Gordon Allport, Kurt Lewin, and Henry Murray.”

Illustration: The contributions of Gordon Allport. (17)

Illustration: The contributions of Kurt Lewin.

Illustration: The contributions of Henry Murray. (17-18)
Complete the following:

“… Allport, Lewin, Murray, and their associates set the stage for modern personality theory by emphasizing that …

Question: What was the anthropologist Margaret Mead’s contribution to the study of personality?

Some Basic Issues: The Unconscious, the Self, Uniqueness, Gender, Situations, Culture

What Is the Importance of the Unconscious?

Complete the following:

“At times … we seem to be influenced by internal forces of which …

“On the other hand, it is generally believed that people are …

“Except for the insane, we expect that people know …

“So we face the dilemma of …
What Is the Self?

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"(The) meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances; if there is any reaction both are transformed.”

Does Each Individual Require a Unique Approach?

Question: What is a nomothetic approach in the study of personality?

Question: What is an idiographic approach in the study of personality?

Are There Differences between Men and Women?

“What are the differences between men and women, and where do they come from.”

Illustrations: Psychological differences between men and women.
The Person versus the Situation

“Since the very beginnings of modern personality theory earlier in this century, it has been well recognized that there are inconsistencies in every individual’s behavior.”

Illustrations: Consistency in behavior. (20)

To What Extent Is Personality Culturally Determined?

Question: What is meant by the following statement?

"It is native personality, and that alone, that endows a man to stand before presidents or generals, or in any distinguished collection, with *aplomb*—and not culture, or any knowledge or intellect whatever.”

Is Personality a Useful Concept?

Question: Is personality a useful scientific concept for understanding human behavior, or is it merely an illusion, a misunderstanding of causality?
Personality in Context

“During the 1930s and 1940s, American psychologists were investigating the Authoritarian personality …”

Illustrations: Authoritarian personality.

“Today, most personality research has a distinct flavor of Western culture in general and mainstream American culture in particular."

Illustrations: Personality theory and mainstream American culture.

“One (psychological) study confirmed that astrology believers are indeed especially susceptible to the Barnum effect … “

Question: What is the Barnum effect?

END