

INSTRUCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES MASTERS COMPREHENSIVE EXAM IN DEVELOPMENT

The basic test in developmental psychology is intended for students who are not majoring in developmental psychology. It consists of two essays (chosen from five options) worth 25 points each. The questions assess basic understanding of a variety of concepts in child and adolescent psychology. The five essay options assess a higher level of understanding, including the ability to integrate and apply knowledge of psychological development (including cognitive, social, moral, or other aspects of psychological functioning). The questions are framed relatively broadly and students should be prepared to discuss major themes in child and adolescent development and support that discussion with theory, research and examples drawn from coursework.

Students who have had either EDPS 850 (Child Psychology) or EDPS 851 (Psychology of Adolescence), regardless of instructor, should be able to answer several of the questions and to find a number of topics addressed in their course(s) that can be applied to answers for multiple questions.

Most basic texts in child or adolescent developmental psychology published in the past 5 years cover most of the topics assessed on the exam. Texts used in recent Educational Psychology courses that may be helpful in preparing for the exam include:

Moshman, D. (2005), *Adolescent Psychological Development* (Second Edition)
Berk, L. (2005). *Child Development*, (7th Edition) - 6th edition is also OK to use.