

Quadrant II - Transcript

Welcome students to the third year Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. This is a paper from Semester five. The paper code is PSC106 and the paper title is 'Psychological Testing'. This is Unit 1, that is 'Nature, Concepts and Principles of Psychological Testing'. The name of the module is 'Definition of a Psychological test' and 'Types of tests'. This is a module numbered as one.

I am Cedilla. Pereira e Gomes, Assistant Professor of M.E.S College of Arts and Commerce, Zuarinagar-Goa. In this module, you will be learning the definition of a psychological test as well as different types of tests. After the completion of this topic, you will understand the meaning of a psychological test. You will examine the various tests that are used to measure human behavior as well as you will be able to give examples of the different types of psychological tests.

Let us look at the definition of a psychological test. 'It is a standardized procedure for sampling behavior and describing it with categories or scores'. Tests also differ in formats and applications. The defining features of tests are as follows: Standardized procedures, behavior sample, scores or categories, norms or standards and prediction of non-test behaviours.

Let us understand what standardized procedures mean. Simply put, it is an essential feature of a psychological test. The procedures for administering it have to be uniform or same, from one examiner to the other. Also, the setting should not vary. That is the procedures for administering have to be the same from one examiner and setting to another.

The next one is a behaviour sample. The test is only a sample of behaviour. For example, if you want to know the taste of a cake, you will not eat the entire cake, but will take a slice of it. Similarly, when you want to study the behavior of people, you will not administer the test to the entire population, but only a sample of population for whom the test is designed for. From this you can understand and make generalizations.

Next, is scores or categories. Whenever a test is administered, we get a number or a score. This tells us to what extent a person possesses a particular trait or characteristic, for example, a score on aggressiveness would reveal the level of aggression possessed by the person being tested.

The next is, norms or standards. When a test is developed or norm, or a standard score is created based on the representative sample, the norm or standard score is

then generalized to the sample of population tested. Thereafter, this norm group is then referred to as the standard group.

And finally prediction of non-test behaviors. This is a very important part of psychological testing. That is, the test should be able to predict nontest behaviors. For example, if you want to test a student's level of shyness and then wish to link it to self-esteem, we may be able to do that with psychological tests. That is, if a person is shy, he may also be having low self-esteem so we will be able to find this out with the help of psychological tests so as to predict non-test behaviors.

Let us look at the second subtopic, that is, types of tests. Tests can be broadly grouped into group tests and individual tests. Individual tests, as the term suggests, have to be administered individually. Group tests, on the other hand, are used for assessing a large number of people simultaneously. The advantages of this is that it saves time and more responses can be gathered at a particular period of time.

There are various types of tests such as intelligence tests, aptitude tests, achievement tests, creativity tests, personality, interest inventories, behavioral procedures and neuropsychological tests. Let us look at each one of them in detail.

Intelligence tests measure an individual's ability in broader areas. It helps an individual to understand the scholastic areas that he possesses. The test reveals an overall summary score. For example, the Binet- Simon Test.

Next one is aptitude tests. These tests measure a person's ability in a specific task or type of skill. That is, it is used to find out a person's ability in a specific type of skill. It is also used to predict success in an occupation, training or an educational course. There are single and multiple aptitude tests.

A single aptitude test measures a single construct or ability. For example, the Seashores' Measure of Musical Tests, which is a series of tests covering pitch, loudness, rhythm. This is used to identify children with a potential talent in music. Similarly, specialized aptitude tests also assess clerical skills, mechanical ability, an artistic ability etc.

Multiple aptitude tests, on the other hand, are commonly used to determine entry into colleges. For example, the Scholastic Assessment Test for College Entrance Examination Board or SAT. Here minimum scores on the SAT are required to predict academic success. These tests usually consist of a verbal section, maths and insightful reasoning.

Another example. Is the DAT or Differential Aptitude Test which consists of a battery of tests administered in order to understand the aptitude of a person. So cumulatively, the score will be taken to get the multiple aptitude of a person.

Next, is achievement tests. These measure a person's degree of learning, success or accomplishment in a subject matter. There are several sub-tests, such as reading, math, language, science and social studies. Achievement tests also help to monitor past learning.

Creativity tests assess a subject's ability to produce new ideas, insights, or artistic creations. They emphasize novelty and originality. Creativity tests require divergent thinking. That is, putting forth a variety of answers to a complex problem. Convergent thinking, on the other hand, is finding a single correct solution to a well defined problem.

Personality tests measure traits, qualities or behaviours that determine a person's individuality. It also helps to predict future behavior. For example, checklist inventories and projective techniques. An example of a checklist is Sentence Completion Test and an example of projective technique is the Rorschach Inkblot Test.

Interest inventories measure an individual's preference for certain activities. It helps determine occupational choice and predict job satisfaction.

Behavioral procedures objectively describe and count the frequency and duration of a behaviour. It also identifies the antecedents and consequences of the behavior. By antecedents, we mean the causes. Consequences refer to the implication of the behaviour. Checklists, rating scales, interviews and structured observations are examples of behavioural procedures.

Finally, neuropsychological tests are used to assess people with known or suspected brain dysfunction. Neuropsychology is the study of brain-behaviour relationships. They measure cognitive, sensory, perceptual and motor performance. It is used to determine the location, extent and behavioral consequences of brain damage. Examiners need to undergo extensive training to interpret the test results.

So let us reflect on what is done. We have covered what defines a psychological test. We have also covered the different types of psychological tests.

These are the books I have referred to for this subtopic. Thank you.