



**ST JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU -27**  
**MSC COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY**  
**ENTRANCE EXAM SYLLABUS**

**1. Emergence of Psychology**

Structuralism, Functionalism, Psychoanalytical, Gestalt, Behaviorism, Humanistic-Existential

**2. Research Methodology and Statistics**

Research: Meaning, Purpose, and Dimensions.

Research problems, Variables and Operational Definitions, Hypothesis, Sampling.

Ethics in conducting and reporting research

Methods of research: Observation, Survey [Interview, Questionnaires], Experimental

Statistics in Psychology: Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion. Parametric [t-test] and Non-parametric tests [Sign Test, Wilcoxon Signed rank test, Mann-Whitney test, Kruskal-Wallis test, Friedman].

Correlational Analysis: Correlation

Experimental Designs: ANOVA [One-way, Factorial], MANOVA, ANCOVA.

**3. Biological basis of behavior**

Sensory systems: General and specific sensations, receptors and processes

Neurons: Structure, functions, types, neural impulse, synaptic transmission. Neurotransmitters.

The Central and Peripheral Nervous Systems – Structure and functions. Neuroplasticity.

Biological basis of emotion: The Limbic system, Hormonal regulation of behavior.

**4. Attention, Perception, Learning, Memory and Forgetting**

Attention: Forms of attention, Models of attention

Perception: Perception of Form, Depth and Movement, Role of motivation and learning in perception

Signal detection theory: Assumptions and applications

## **Learning Process:**

Fundamental theories: Thorndike

Classical Conditioning: Procedure, phenomena and related issues

Instrumental learning: Reinforcement: Basic variables and schedules

Cognitive approaches in learning: Latent learning, observational learning.

## **Memory and Forgetting**

Memory processes: Encoding, Storage, Retrieval

Stages of memory: Sensory memory, Short-term memory (Working memory), Long-term Memory (Declarative – Episodic and Semantic; Procedural)

Theories of Forgetting: Interference, Retrieval Failure, Decay, Motivated forgetting

## **5. Thinking, Intelligence and Creativity**

Theoretical perspectives on thought processes: Associationism, Gestalt, Information processing, Feature integration model

Language and thought

Problem solving: Type, Strategies, and Obstacles

Decision-making: Types and models

Intelligence: Spearman; Thurstone; Jensen; Cattell; Gardner; Stenberg; Goleman; measures of intelligence.

## **6. Personality, Motivation, Emotion, Stress and Coping**

Determinants of personality: Biological and socio-cultural

Approaches to the study of personality: Psychoanalytical, Neo-Freudian, Social learning, Trait and Type, Cognitive, Humanistic, Existential, Transpersonal psychology.

Basic motivational concepts: Instincts, Needs, Drives, Arousal, Incentives, Motivational Cycle.

Approaches to the study of motivation: Psychoanalytical, Humanistic

Emotions: Physiological correlates

Theories of emotions: James-Lange, Canon-Bard, Schachter and Singer

Emotion regulation

Conflicts: Sources and types

## 7. Social Psychology

Nature, scope and history of social psychology

Social perception [Communication, Attributions]; attitude and its change within cultural context; prosocial behavior

Group and Social influence [Social Facilitation; Social loafing]; Social influence [Conformity, Peer Pressure, Persuasion, Compliance, Obedience, Social Power, Reactance]. Aggression. Group dynamics, leadership style and effectiveness.

## 8. Psychopathology

Introduction – Definition, historical review, changing attitude and concept of mental health and illness. current views.

Need for and types of classification of mental disorders: DSM and ICD systems of classification. Case history taking and MSE

Major disorders- Anxiety Disorders and Obsessive-Compulsive And Related Disorders, Dissociative Disorders and Somatic Symptom And Related Disorders

## 9. Human Development and Interventions

Various aspects of development: Sensory-motor, cognitive, language, emotional, social and moral.

Psychopathology: Concept, Mental Status Examination, Classification, Causes

Psychotherapies: Psychoanalysis, Person-centered, Gestalt, Existential, Acceptance Commitment Therapy, Behavior therapy, REBT, CBT, MBCT, Play therapy, Positive psychotherapy, Transactional Analysis, Dialectic behavior therapy, Art therapy, Performing Art Therapy, Family therapy.

## 10. Emerging Areas

Para Psychology, Positive Psychology and Psychology and technology interface

Sl. No.	Area	Marks distribution
1	General psychology	40
2	Aptitude & logical reasoning	11
3	Counselling aptitude	9