

Test Specifications / Summary of EPPP Content Areas / Psychologists' Roles

Each English, French and Spanish/English form of the EPPP contains 225 items, 175 of which are scored and 50 of which are pretest items and do not count in a candidate's final score. Each item has four possible responses, only one of which is the correct answer.

The content areas of the EPPP outlined below are based on the *Analysis of Professional Practice with a Focus on the Validation and Assessment of Competencies*, a 24-month study that was completed by ASPPB in 2010. This reflects the knowledge base required for the various responsibilities psychologists are expected to assume in professional practice. This content outline is used for the current administrations of the EPPP.

Domain 1 - Biological Bases of Behavior (12%) — knowledge of (a) biological and neural bases of behavior, (b) psychopharmacology, and (c) methodologies supporting this body of knowledge

KN1 0101 Correlates and determinants of the biological and neural bases of behavior (e.g., neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neuroendocrinology) pertaining to perception, cognition, personality, and mood and affect in normal, acute and chronic disordered states, (e.g., pain, stroke, focal lesion, traumatic brain injury, toxic metabolic states); and/or acute and chronic disease (e.g., diabetes, mood and psychotic spectrum disorders, dementias)

KN2 0102 Drug classification of therapeutic agents and drugs of abuse (e.g., anxiolytics, antidepressants, antipsychotics, mood stabilizers, cognitive-enhancing agents, opiates, psychostimulants); pharmacokinetics (administration, distribution, metabolism, elimination) and pharmacodynamics as they relate to the desired and non-desired, acute and chronic effects of therapeutic drugs, abused drugs, and common interactions with other drugs, foods, and herbal or alternative remedies

KN3 0103 Results from multi-center trials and guidelines for pharmacological, somatic, and combined

treatment of psychological and neuropsychological disorders

KN4 0104 Behavioral genetics, transmission and expression of genetic information and its modification (e.g., gene-environment interactions) and the role of this information in understanding diseases and disorders (e.g., substance abuse disorders, neurodegenerative disorders, pervasive developmental disorders) with consideration of co-morbidities and population differences in genetic information

KN5 0105 Interaction of developmental, gender, ethnic, cultural, environmental, and experiential factors with the biological and neural bases of behavior

KN6 0106 Applications of brain imaging methods that describe structure and function, electrophysiological methods, therapeutic drug monitoring techniques, and genetic screening methodologies, and the evidence for their effectiveness

Domain 2 - Cognitive-Affective Bases of Behavior (13%) - knowledge of (a) cognition, (b) theories and empirical bases of learning, memory, motivation, affect, emotion, and executive function, and (c) factors that influence cognitive performance and/or emotional experience and their interaction

KN7 0207 Elements of cognition, including sensation and perception, attention, learning (adult learning theory and other contemporary models), memory, language (reception and expression), intelligence, information processing, problem-solving, executive function

KN8 0208 Major research-based theories and models of intelligence and their application

KN9 0209 Major research-based theories, models, and principles of learning and their application (e.g., contingency reinforcement, interventions, cognitive

behavioral therapy, training strategies, sports performance strategies)

KN10 0210 Major research-based theories and models of memory (e.g., multiple memory systems, expectancy theory, constructivist theory, levels of processing) and their application (e.g., use of mnemonics, neurorehabilitation following injury or in disease states).

KN11 0211 Major research-based theories and models of motivation and emotion (e.g., need/value approaches, cognitive appraisal, contemporary

theories of emotion) and their application (e.g., self-regulation, work motivation, anger management, social skills training, sports performance)

KN12 0212 Interrelationships among cognitions/beliefs, behavior, affect, temperament, and mood (e.g., healthy functioning, performance anxiety, performance enhancement, job satisfaction, stress, and depression)

KN13 0213 Influence of psychosocial factors (e.g., life span development, gender, diversity characteristics) on beliefs/cognitions and behaviors

Domain 3 - Social and Cultural Bases of Behavior (12%) - knowledge of (a) interpersonal, intrapersonal, intergroup, and intragroup processes and dynamics, (b) theories of personality, and (c) diversity issues

KN14 0314 Social cognition and perception (e.g., categorization and attribution theories, person perception, development of stereotypes, prejudice)

KN15 0315 Social interaction (e.g., interpersonal relationships, attraction, aggression, altruism, organizational justice, verbal and non-verbal communication, internet communication)

KN16 0316 Group/team dynamics and organizational structures (e.g., school, work, and family systems, job satisfaction, team functioning, conformity, persuasion) and social influences on individual functioning

KN17 0317 Environmental/ecological psychology (e.g., person-environment fit, job design, rural-urban contexts) and human impact of environmental and societal events (e.g., natural disasters, armed conflict, job loss and unemployment)

KN18 0318 Evolutionary perspectives on social behavior (e.g., mate selection, empathy)

KN19 0319 Major research-based theories of personality (e.g., psychodynamic, humanistic/existential, cognitive, behavioral, trait theory, interpersonal)

KN20 0320 Social-contextual issues (e.g., privilege/oppression, cross-cultural comparisons, political differences, international and global awareness, religion and spirituality)

KN21 0321 Impact of race/ethnicity on psychosocial, political, and economic development of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities (e.g., theories of racial/ethnic identity; effects of culture on motivation and communication)

KN22 0322 Causes, manifestations, effects of oppression (e.g., racism, sexism, heterosexism, ethnic conflicts, colonization, classism, political persecution)

KN23 0323 Sexual orientation and identity (e.g., sexual identity development, workplace identity management, heterosexual/gay/lesbian/bisexual perspectives, parenting and family constellations)

KN24 0324 Psychology of gender (e.g., women/men/transgender, gender identity development)

KN25 0325 Disability and rehabilitation issues (e.g., psychological impact of disability on individuals and families, conceptual models and assumption of disability, incorporation or inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace)

KN26 0326 Acculturation of immigrant, refugee and political asylum seeking populations (e.g., stages of acculturation models, trauma, mental health)

KN27 0327 Culturally mediated communication patterns

Domain 4 - Growth and Lifespan Development (12%) - knowledge of (a) development across the full life span, (b) atypical patterns of development, and (c) the protective and risk factors that influence developmental trajectories of individuals

KN28 0428 Normal growth and development (biological, physical, sexual functioning, cognitive, perceptual, social, personality, moral/spiritual, emotional, career development, and end of life issues) across the full lifespan

KN29 0429 Influence of individual-environment interaction over time (e.g., the relationship between the individual and the social, academic, or work environment) on development

KN30 0430 Major research-based theories of development

KN31 0431 Influence of culture on development (e.g., cultural moderation of individual-environment interactions, acculturation and development)

KN32 0432 Family development and functioning and its impact on the individual across the full lifespan

KN33 0433 Family configuration (e.g., single parent, reconstituted, extended, gay/lesbian) and its effects on child and adolescent development

KN34 0434 Normative and non-normative life event changes (e.g., injury, trauma, illness, interpersonal loss, birth of a child, retirement) that can influence the normal course of development

KN35 0435 System factors that predict a problematic developmental course (e.g., nutritional deficiencies, poor prenatal care, poor health care, lack of social support, poverty, exposure to violence and abuse/victimization)

KN36 0436 Disorders/diseases (e.g., cognitive, genetic, psychological) that impact expected course of development over the full lifespan

Domain 5 - Assessment and Diagnosis (14%) - knowledge of (a) psychometrics, (b) assessment models and instruments, (c) assessment methods for initial status of and change by individuals, couples, families, groups, and organizations/systems, and (d) diagnostic classification systems and their limitations

KN37 0537 Psychometric theory (e.g., classical test theory, item response theory), generalizability theory, item and test characteristics and related concepts (e.g., test construction and standardization procedures, reliability and validity, sensitivity and specificity, examination of test fairness and bias, test and item characteristics)

KN38 0538 Assessment theories and models (e.g., psychometric, behavioral, ecological, neuropsychological)

KN39 0539 Assessment methods (e.g., standardized administration, assessment centers, self-report, report by others, psychophysiological, work sample, direct observation, structured and semi-structured interviews)

KN40 0540 Tests for the measurement of characteristics and behaviors of individuals (e.g., social, relational, emotional, and behavioral functioning; cognitive and neuropsychological functioning; ability, aptitude, and achievement; personality; vocational interest; health behavior; assessment of symptom

validity, competence, criminal responsibility, risk of future violence, suicide evaluation), and the adaptation of these tests for use with various populations

KN41 0541 Issues of differential diagnosis and integration of non-psychological information (e.g., medical evaluations, educational history, genomics) into psychological assessment

KN42 0542 Instruments and methods for the measurement of characteristics and performance of jobs, organizations and systems of care, and educational and other social institutions (e.g., performance appraisal, academic skill development, job analysis, job evaluation, need assessment, functional analysis of behavior) and for the measurement of the environmental/ecological influences on individuals, groups or organizations

KN43 0543 Criteria for selection and adaptation of assessment methods (e.g., cultural appropriateness, trans-cultural adaptation, language accommodation, cost effectiveness, incremental validity, relevance to referral concern, evidence-based knowledge of

assessment limitations)

KN44 0544 Classification systems (e.g., DSM, ICF, ICD) and their underlying rationales and limitations for evaluating client functioning; dimensional vs. categorical approaches to diagnosis

KN45 0545 Factors influencing interpretation of data and decision-making (e.g., base rates, group differences, cultural biases and differences, heuristics, evidence base)

KN46 0546 Epidemiology of behavioral disorders, base rates of disorders in clinical or demographic populations; comorbidity of mental illness with substance abuse; comorbidity of behavioral disorders

with medical disorders; comorbidity rates, age ranges affected

KN47 0547 Methods for the measurement of individual, couples, family, group, and organizational change due to intervention or prevention efforts (e.g., continuous monitoring, behavioral analysis, pre-, post-, and follow-up assessment, detection of relapse, patient adherence, organizational benchmarking, response to intervention)

KN48 0548 Use of computers, the internet, and related technology in implementing tests, surveys, and other forms of assessment and diagnostic evaluation; validity, cost effectiveness, consumer acceptability, privacy issues and confidentiality

Domain 6 - Treatment, Intervention, Prevention, and Supervision (14%) - knowledge of (a) individual, couple, family, group, organizational, or community interventions for specific problems/disorders in diverse populations, (b) intervention and prevention theories, (c) best practices and practice guidelines, (d) consultation and supervision models, and (e) evidence supporting efficacy and effectiveness of interventions

KN49 0649 Treatment decision making based on best available data (e.g., matching treatment to assessment/diagnosis, matching client/patient and therapist characteristics, cost and benefit, readiness to change)

KN50 0650 Contemporary theories/models of treatment/intervention and their evidence base

KN51 0651 Treatment techniques/interventions and the evidence for their comparative efficacy and effectiveness for specific disorders or functional concerns

KN52 0652 Adaptation of techniques for prevention and intervention with special populations (e.g., linguistics and cultural minorities, refugees, prisoners, survivors of catastrophic injuries)

KN53 0653 Interventions to enhance growth and performance of individuals, couples, families, groups, systems, and organizations (e.g., enhancement of athletic performance, conflict resolution skills, career performance, coaching, organizational development and change, training and development, effects of work/overwork, human resource management

interventions)

KN54 0654 Consultation models and processes for individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities

KN55 0655 Career counseling

KN56 0656 Adjunctive interventions (e.g., support groups, individual self-help, indigenous support systems, spirituality)

KN57 0657 Technology-assisted psychological assessment, intervention, research, and documentation

KN58 0658 Healthcare systems, structures, and economics, and how these impact intervention choice (e.g., funding sources and trends, cost/benefit considerations, medical cost-offset; health care resource allocation)

KN59 0659 Health promotion, risk reduction, resilience and wellness activities and methods

KN60 0660 Contemporary theories/models of supervision and their evidence base

Domain 7 - Research Methods and Statistics (8%) - knowledge of (a) research design, methodology, and program evaluation, (b) instrument selection and validation, (c) statistical models, assumptions, and procedures, and (d) dissemination methods

KN61 0761 Sampling and data collection (e.g., recruitment, community partnerships, instrument selection and calibration, questionnaire design, proximal-distal data collection, role of culture and other individual difference variables in choosing methods)

KN62 0762 Design of case studies, correlational, quasi-experimental and experimental studies (e.g., hypothesis generation; randomized controlled trials; cross-sequential designs, efficacy and effectiveness trials)

KN63 0763 Analytic methods: qualitative (e.g., thematic, phenomenological), descriptive and inferential statistics (e.g., probability theory, parametric statistics, meta analysis, exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, non-parametric statistics, causal modeling)

KN64 0764 Statistical interpretation (e.g., power, effect size, causation vs. association, sensitivity and

specificity, generalizability, clinical versus statistical significance)KN65 0765 Critical appraisal and application of research findings (e.g., adequacy of design and statistics, limitations to generalizations, threats to internal and external validity, design flaws, level of evidence)

KN66 0766 Evaluation strategies and techniques (e.g., needs assessment, process/implementation evaluation, formative and summative assessment program evaluation, outcome evaluation, cost-benefit analysis)

KN67 0767 Considerations underlying community involvement and participation in research, particularly for underrepresented populations (e.g. use of community advisory boards, community involvement and research planning)

KN68 0768 Dissemination and presentation of research findings (e.g., publication standard

Domain 8 - Ethical/Legal/Professional Issues (15%) - knowledge of (a) codes of ethics, (b) professional standards for practice, (c) legal mandates and restrictions, (d) guidelines for ethical decision-making, and (e) professional training and supervision

KN69 0869 Ethical principles/codes of psychologists (APA, CPA), and codes of conduct (e.g., ASPPB)

KN70 0870 Professional standards for the practice of psychology (e.g., standards for providers of psychology services, standards for educational and psychological testing)

KN71 0871 Federal, state and/or provincial laws/statutes and/or judicial decisions that affect psychological practice

KN72 0872 Potential ethical dilemmas (e.g., practice management, supervision, multiple relationships, group and family counseling) and ethical issues associated with specific areas of practice (e.g., forensic, law enforcement, psychopharmacology, dealing with third party payors)

KN73 0873 Models of ethical decision-making process

KN74 0874 Models and approaches for professional development (e.g., methods for developing, updating,

and enhancing knowledge in proficiencies and specialties, peer consultation and supervision; appropriateness of credentials)

KN75 0875 Consideration of social, legal, ethical, and policy implications of current and emerging issues (e.g., neuroethics, use of technology in practice, genetics, end of life issues)

KN76 0876 Patient's/client's rights (e.g., informed assent and consent, right to refuse treatment in least restrictive environment, privacy, privileged communication)

KN77 0877 Ethical issues in the conduct of research (e.g., protection of human participants, secondary use of data, conflict of interest)

KN78 0878 Ethical issues in supervision (e.g., multiple role relationships, client welfare, availability to supervisee)