

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

SYLLABUS FOR

M.A. PSYCHOLOGY

- 1. Psychology:** Nature and definitions; Pre-scientific Foundations, Psychophysics, Structuralism, Functionalism, Gestalt, Behaviourism, Psychoanalysis, Humanism, Cognitive and Constructive schools. Fields: Basic and Applied, Methods: Experimental, Introspection, Observation and Correlation. Variables: concept and types; Techniques to control confounding variables: Randomizations, Elimination and Double-blind technique.
- 2. Psychophysics:** Basic concept of psychophysics, sensitivity, stimulus and differential threshold, point of subjective equality (PSE). Methods: method of limits, method of constant stimuli, method of average error. Signal Detection Theory: Sensitivity Vs Response criteria.
- 3. Biopsychological basis of behavior:** Receptor and Effector mechanisms; Neural conduction mechanism; neurons, synapses, reflexes and the nerve impulse. Structure and Functions of Autonomic nervous system and Central nervous system. Lesion Studies, Stimulation Methods, Recording Methods, Imaging Methods: Functional and Structural Imaging. Staining techniques: Golgi Stain, Nissl Stain and Silver Staining. Angiography and Wada Technique.
- 4. Sensory-perceptual Process:** Concept of sensation and perception; Classification and attributes of sensation; Figure-ground relationship, Principles of perceptual organizations: Law of Proximity, Similarity, Closure, Continuity, Good Figure. Visual depth perception – monocular and binocular cues and perceptual constancies.
- 5. Attention:** Nature of Attention, Concept and definition of Selective Attention and Sustained Attention; Factors influencing Attention; Theories of Attention; Filter Theory and Attenuation Theory.
- 6. Motivation:** Concept of Motivation, Process and Characteristics of Motivation; Types of Motivation: Biological and Psycho-social motives; Theories of Motivation: Maslow's need hierarchy theory and Two-Factor theory, Frustration and conflict of motives.
- 7. Emotion:** Concept and Aspects of Emotion: Theories of Emotion: James-Lange Theory and Cannon Bard Theory.
- 8. Social Perception and Cognition:** Perceiving oneself: self-concept, self-esteem and self-presentation. Perceiving others: Forming impressions, Role of verbal and nonverbal cues. Attribution: understanding the causes of others behavior; Attributional biases.

- 9. Attitude and Prejudices:** Nature and determinants of attitude. Measurement of attitude: Likert and Thurstone Scales. Nature of Prejudice and Discrimination: its origin and control.
- 10. Group processes and Leadership:** Nature and Function of Group; Task performance: Social facilitation and Social loafing; Conformity; factors affecting conformity, Group cohesiveness; Leadership: definition, nature and function of Leadership, Types and qualities of Leadership. Theories of Leadership: Trait, situational and Interactional approach.
- 11. Psychopathology:** Historical overview of Psychopathology, Systems of classification: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5); Nature and criteria of abnormal behavior, Causes of Abnormal Behaviour: Biological, Psychological and Social. Anxiety Disorders: Social anxiety disorder, Specific phobia, Generalized anxiety disorder, their symptoms and etiology; Dissociative and Somatic System Disorders: types. Mood disorders and Schizophrenia: clinical symptoms and etiology. Neuro development disorders: Intellectual disability, Autism, Learning disabilities.
- 12. Descriptive and Inferential Statistics:** Classification and tabulation of data: frequency distribution; Measures of central tendency and variability: computation of mean, median mode. Meaning, uses and calculation of Standard deviation and variance. Graphical presentation of data. Correlation: meaning, assumption and types. Normal probability curve: nature, meaning, properties and uses, deviation from normal probability curve. Population and sampling: nature and types.
- 13. Learning:** Nature, Types and measurement of learning, Theories of Learning: Classical conditioning, Basic Processes-Extinction, Spontaneous recovery, generalization and discrimination. Application of Classical conditioning: Phobias, drug dependence and taste aversion. Instrumental Conditioning: Operant conditioning, Avoidance conditioning and Escape conditioning. Transfer of Training: Methods: Specific and non-specific Transfer.
- 14. Memory and Forgetting:** Information processing model of memory, Sensory memory, Short term and Long term memory. Forgetting: concept and Theories of forgetting: Decay theory, Interference theory, Two factor theory of forgetting: response competition and unlearning with experimental evidences, Motivation theory of forgetting: repression with experimental studies. Techniques for improving memory: Study habits, Mnemonic devices.
- 15. Measurement:** Nature and significance of measurement, Distinction between assessment and measurement. Levels of measurement: Nominal, Ordinal, Interval and Ratio. Scaling Techniques -Likert scale, Semantic differential scale, Thurstone scale and Guttman scale.
- 16. Psychological Tests:** Definition of Psychological test, Brief history of psychological testing: test administration. Types of tests: Group Vs Individual, Typical Vs Maximum performance tests, Objective Vs Projective tests, Speed Vs Power tests, limited response Vs Free response tests: Characteristics of tests and uses of tests. Reliability – Concept of reliability and methods for determining reliability-Test-Retest-Same test, Parallel forms; Internal consistency- Split-half, Cronbach alpha. Validity – Concept of validity and its types: Face validity, content validity, criterion-related validity and construct validity. Factors influencing Reliability and Validity. Standardization and Norms. Applications of testing: assessment in educational setup, occupational setup and counseling.

- 17. Personality:** Nature and definitions of personality: Western and Eastern perspective. Personality as a set of traits and as types. Biological basis of Personality: Role of genes and endocrine glands. Role of Physical Environment, Nature Environment, Constructed Environment and behavioural setting. Role of social and cultural environments: early social experiences and impact of parenting style. Nature – Nurture controversy: Historical background, relative importance of nature and nurture in personality development. Methods of personality assessment: Testing and Observational method. Major theoretical approaches to the study of personality: Psychoanalytic approach (Freud's view), Type Approach (Jung's view), New Freudian approach (Horney's view), Trait approach (Allport's view).
- 18. Self-Concept:** Nature and development of self-concept. Theories of self-comparison: Central theory of self-regulation: Self-Discrepancy theory, Measurement of self-concept, changes in self-concept. Self-esteem: development and consequences of self-esteem.
- 19. Fatigue:** Determinants of Fatigue: Physiological, Psychological and Industrial Fatigue. Causes of Fatigue; controlling fatigue effects.