More Than One Moment

Compare explanations of behavior and measures of personality

SS24.P.14 "Explain the role of personality development in human behavior and differentiate among theories that seek to explain this development. 14a Describe different measures of personality..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each theory and personality measure named in the passage. Underline what each theory emphasizes or what each measure gathers, so you can compare them.

Why Did Maya Stay Quiet?

1. At the school debate, Maya usually speaks first, but today she stays quiet after a teammate laughs at her idea. Personality development concerns how lasting patterns of thinking, feeling, and acting take shape over time. One action does not reveal someone's whole personality. A psychodynamic approach might ask whether Maya's reaction connects to earlier experiences with criticism or feelings she has not recognized. A social-cognitive approach would instead examine what Maya learned from classmates, what she expects will happen if she speaks, and how this particular setting affects her choice. Both examine development, but they point to different influences.

2. A trait approach looks for relatively stable differences between people. It might ask whether Maya tends to be outgoing across many situations, rather than judging her by this one debate. A humanistic approach would focus on Maya's self-image, goals, and opportunities to grow. It might ask whether she feels free to speak honestly in a group that values her ideas. The approaches need not deny that the teammate's laugh mattered. They differ in what they emphasize: consistent tendencies, personal meaning and growth, earlier emotional experiences, or learning within a social setting. Researchers compare these explanations with evidence, not a single moment.

3. Psychologists also use measures to gather information, not to read minds. The NEO Personality Inventory, often called the NEO-PI, uses self-report ratings to describe five broad traits: neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness. The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, or MMPI, uses structured self-report items to help assess patterns of psychological symptoms and response style. In projective tests, a person interprets ambiguous material, such as an inkblot; a clinician considers the responses for possible themes. Unlike the two inventories, projective tests rely more on interpretation, and their results can be less consistent. None of these tools alone explains why Maya stayed quiet today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How would psychodynamic and social-cognitive approaches investigate different possible reasons Maya stayed quiet?

2. What would a trait approach look for across situations, and what would a humanistic approach ask about Maya?

3. If a psychologist wanted to describe Maya's broad traits rather than assess patterns of symptoms, which inventory from the passage would fit better? Explain the difference.

4. How does a projective test gather information differently from the NEO-PI and MMPI, and what limit does the passage identify?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Jordan usually avoids leading a group but volunteers after watching a friend receive praise for presenting. In 4 or 5 sentences, use two different theories to explain Jordan's choice, choose one measure to investigate Jordan's personality, and explain one limit of that measure.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each theory and personality measure named in the passage. Underline what each theory emphasizes or what each measure gathers, so you can compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How would psychodynamic and social-cognitive approaches investigate different possible reasons Maya stayed quiet?	**A psychodynamic approach would consider earlier criticism or unrecognized feelings. A social-cognitive approach would consider what Maya learned, what she expects to happen, and the debate setting.**
2	What would a trait approach look for across situations, and what would a humanistic approach ask about Maya?	**A trait approach would look for a relatively stable tendency, such as how outgoing Maya is across situations. A humanistic approach would ask about her self-image, goals, and freedom to speak honestly.**
3	If a psychologist wanted to describe Maya's broad traits rather than assess patterns of symptoms, which inventory from the passage would fit better? Explain the difference.	**The NEO-PI would fit better because it describes five broad traits. The MMPI helps assess patterns of psychological symptoms and response style.**
4	How does a projective test gather information differently from the NEO-PI and MMPI, and what limit does the passage identify?	**A projective test asks a person to interpret ambiguous material, while the inventories use structured self-report responses. Projective results rely more on interpretation and can be less consistent.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A social-cognitive explanation is that Jordan learned from seeing a friend praised and now expects a positive response. A trait explanation would ask whether Jordan's usual reluctance reflects a relatively stable tendency that this situation temporarily overrides. The NEO-PI could describe Jordan's broad traits using self-report ratings. Its scores would not prove why Jordan volunteered on this particular day.

Accept other accurate theory comparisons and a correctly described measure. The response should distinguish a measure's information from a definite explanation of one action.