

PSYCHOLOGY

Question NO: 1

Differentiate between Objective and projective Tests in psychology. Elaborate the Rorschach, TAT and other projective Tests of personality?
(CSS - 2021)

Answer:-

1: Introduction:-

Personality is defined as the characteristic patterns of behaviours and responses to external environment. Psychologists have, for many years, tried their best to assess personality in one way or another. Despite diversity, all psychologists try their best to study behaviour and its assessment. Same goes for the concept of personality. There are two major tests to assess personality, they being,

Objective and projective Tests.
Both of these tests have different domains and structures but similar end - to assess personality with enough validity.

2: Difference Between Objective and Projective Tests:-

(a) Defining Objective Test:-

An Objective Test of personality is a highly structured, pencil-paper form of test to assess personality. It uses self-inventory or questionnaires to delve deep into an individual's personality.

(b) Defining Projective Tests:-

It contains relatively unstructured stimuli which can be perceived in many ways. It focuses more on subjectivity

Principle: It is more in accordance with the psychodynamic theory of Freud where he proposed one of his defence mechanisms - "Projection" - the whole idea of the term.

Difference Between Objective and Projective Tests :-

Objective Tests:	Projective Tests:
1. It is based on structured stimuli - i.e. Questionnaires	It is based on unstructured stimuli - i.e. Cards, drawings
2. It does not involve interpreters	It does involve interpreters
3. It has much higher reliability and validity	These are used in psychotherapy settings and are ambiguous.
4. It has standard written format.	It has a free response format.

3: Projective Tests of Personality

①

Rorschach Inkblot

Test

②

Thematic Apperception

Test (TAT)

③

Word Association

Test (WAT)

④

Figure Drawing

Test

⑤

Rorschach Incomplete

Sentence Blank

Test (RISB)

① Rorschach Inkblot Test :-

Herman Rorschach of Switzerland introduced this projective test to the field of psychology. It is the most widely used personality test. It was introduced in 1921, but its idea was prevalent even in 1910.

• Test Construction and Administration :-

It is an individual test. Rorschach constructed each stimulus card by dropping ink onto a piece of paper and folding it. After designing thousands of such cards, he selected 20 of them. These cards were shown in two phases and in a totally free environment.

Subject was given some clues as regards the interpretation.

Subject's reaction, position of the "cardinal" interpretation. Some periods are also assessed.

• Scoring Criteria

Responses of the Subject are scored on following grounds:

- 1) Location
- 2) Form/Quality
- 3) Content
- 4) Frequency
- 5) Determinant

• Evaluation of Rorschach Test

- 1) It is highly subjective test.
- 2) Critics also argue about its unscientific nature.
- 3) Its results are unstable.

⇒ Nonetheless:

- 1) It is the most popular test of personality assessment with large empirical basis.
- 2) It gives wealth of information.

about personality if supplemented by an interview.

② The Thematic Apperception Test (TAT):

TAT was introduced in 1935 by Christina Morgan and Henry Murray. It is basically a method of revealing one's inner self to the trained interpreter by the saying/telling of stories. It is compared to the Rorschach in terms of its competence and importance in psychometric problems.

• Utility :-

The TAT focuses on comprehending personality in vivo. It helps in personality interpretation and behavioral disorders, psychosomatic illnesses, neuroses and psychoses.

• Rationale :-

TAT is an individual test. Pictures are being used. and

Stimule to a subject and he is being encouraged to interpret those pictures in the given period. Stories collected in that way often served a significant information about the inner personality. People make stories on the fund of their past experiences which shows their behaviour.

● Test material and Instruction:-

These are over 30 pictures administered to the subject.

Along with these pictures, a blank card is also handed over. Cards are designed on gender and age bases.

After giving all details to the subject about the procedure, the first phase is initiated as follows:

1: 20 cards are provided to the subject. For over 50 minutes

The procedure is continued.
5 minutes are allowed to each
card to be explained and made
story of.

2: The subject is left free to
speak his thoughts. After the
completion of the 1st phase,
2nd phase is started.

3: Second session starts a
week later or so. Like other
individually administered tests, the
individual records the subjects
verbalism.

4: An abnormally long reaction
in card interpretation indicates a
specific problem.

5: After the completion of the
test, an interview is conducted
for the interpretation of
the stories.

• Test Interpretation:-

Almost all the methods of TAT interpretation involve:

- 1: Hero
- 2: need
- 3: Press
- 4: Themes
- 5: Outcomes.

→ The Storyteller ordinarily identifies with the hero character of the card.

→ All stories are of equal importance.

→ The stories may reflect memories characteristic of Storyteller or enduring characteristics.

→ Conflicts inferred from the Storyteller's creation may be revealing the unconscious.

③ Word Association Test (WAT):-

This is a type of non-pictorial projective test. The purpose of Word Association Test

is to infer disturbances and areas of conflicts and individuals responses to it.

Cattell was first psychologist to propose this in 1879.

• Text Technique and Evaluation:-

After Cattell, Kent and Roseoff in 1910 used it on clinical basis they discovered a word list of 100 and presented it to over 100 people who were partially dehydrated.

However, the technique dropped considerably after Cyril and Schaffer, other psychologists, concluded that the procedure did not come up to their clinical promises.

④ Rotter's Incomplete Sentence Blank Test (RISB):-

This was proposed by Rotter who provided over 40 items

to individuals and asked to complete it. This test, too, could not live up to the experimenter's premises.

⑤ Figure Drawing Test:-

These tests are included in expressive techniques. In this, subjects are asked to create something through drawing.

It includes following 3 tests:

- 1: House Tree Person Test
- 2: Draw a Person Test
- 3: Kinetic Family Drawing Test.

4: Conclusion :-

In short, Projective tests help the interpreter to collect a wealth of information about inner personality dynamics.

If supplemented by interviews, these tests can provide a picture up to the premises of test interpreters.