

PROJECTIVE TECHNIQUES

B.A.Part-2Psychology(Subsidiary)



Projective Techniques

A type of personality test, primarily used by psychologists in clinical contexts, designed to measure overall personality dynamics rather than discrete personality traits or dimensions.

The tests involve presenting subjects with a relatively unstructured task, such as completing a sentence, or describing a vague shape or picture.

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- This kind of test relies on one of the defense mechanisms proposed by Freud projection—as a way to assess unconscious processes.
- During this type of testing, a series of ambiguous cards is shown to the person being tested, who then is encouraged to project his feelings, impulses, and desires onto the cards—by telling a story, interpreting an image, or completing a sentence.

Rorschach Inkblot Test

- The Rorschach Inkblot Test was developed in 1921 by a Swiss psychologist named Hermann Rorschach.
- It is a series of ten symmetrical inkblot cards that are presented to a client by a psychologist.
- Black& white-5, Coloured -2, Multicolour-3

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- While looking at the blot the subject is asked to reveal whatever he/she sees in them.
- The responses are analysed on the dimensions like location, determinants and contents.

The Thematic Apperception Test

- This test (TAT)was developed by Henry Murray.
- It consists 30 cards.
- Most of the cards represent a scene in which people are interacting.
- Scenes are vague and semi structured.

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- In this test the subject is supposed to look at each card and write a story on the basis of his/her own imagination.
- The stories are analysed in terms of needs and pressure operating of the subject.
- Test is used in clinical and non-clinical settings both.

Word Association Test

- Probably the earliest projective test is the Word Association Test (WAT).
- This test was developed by Francis Galton in 1879.
- In WAT the individual has to respond to each word on a list with the first that comes into mind.

Limitations of projective tests

- Scoring of projective tests is subjective, so interpretations of answers can vary from one examiner to the next.
- The respondent's answers can be heaviely influenced by the examiner's attitudes.

