

Essay Questions

5: Name and describe four reflexive abilities children have at birth:

At birth the newborn has four reflexes.

1: The swallowing reflex enables neonates to swallow liquids without choking.

2: The rooting reflex causes a newborn to turn its head towards something touching its cheek and search around with its mouth for a place to feed.

3: The gasping reflex causes infants to close their fists around anything that is put in their hands.

4: The stepping reflex causes newborn babies to make little stepping motions if they are held upright with their feet just touching a surface.

12: Describe Erik Erikson's eight psychosocial crises:

1. **The trust vs mistrust stage:** From birth to around 18 months, infants resolve a crisis of trust. Does the infant form trusting relationships or develop a sense of mistrust? Erikson thought that infants who are fed and comforted will develop trust. If trust does not develop the child will be withdrawn, suspicious, and lacking in self-confidence.
2. **The autonomy versus shame and doubt stage:** From around 18 months to 3 years, toddlers resolve a crisis of autonomy. In this stage children learn to walk, control elimination, and explore the world with some independence.
3. **The initiative versus guilt stage:** From around 3 to 5 years, preschoolers resolve a crisis of initiative. In this stage, through play and family relationships, children learn to make plans, interact with peers, and assert their initiative. Does the child develop a sense of confidence and control or a sense of guilt and timidity.
4. **The industry versus inferiority stage:** From around 6 to 11 years, older children resolve a crisis of inferiority. In this stage children enter the larger world of school, knowledge, societies, and cultures. Does the child develop a sense of industry, competence, and mastery, or a sense of inadequacy and inferiority.
5. **The identity versus role confusion stage:** From around 12 to 18 years, adolescents face an existential crisis of identity. In this stage adolescents are concerned with questions like "who am I", "why am I here," and "what do other people think about me?" In the face of rapid physical and psychological change, will adolescents develop their unique but appropriate aspirations, beliefs, interests, and identity or will they develop self-doubt and confusion.
6. **The intimacy versus isolation stage:** In young adulthood, Erikson believed we face a crisis of intimacy. In this stage young adults decide whether to give up some of their independence in order to make friends and to commit to an intimate relationship.

- 7. The generativity versus stagnation stage:** From young through middle adulthood, the crisis is one of generativity, or ability to generate or make something useful and valuable. In this stage Erikson believed we invest ourselves in the future in terms of raising a family, building a career, and serving community.
- 8. The ego integrity versus despair stage:** From middle adulthood until death, the crisis is again existential. In this stage mature adults look back and evaluate their lives and ask, “what kind of life have I lived?” If, according to Erikson, we have successfully navigated the previous crises, we will experience ego integrity, a sense of life-satisfaction and no fear of death.