**BA PART III PSYCHOLOGY HONS**.

**GROUP B PAPER IV:- Educational Psychology**

Topic: Definition, problems, methods, scopes and aims of Educational Psychology

**DEFINITION**

**Educational psychology** is the branch of [psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychology) concerned with the scientific study of human [learning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning). The study of learning processes, from both [cognitive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive) and [behavioral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Behavioral) perspectives, allows researchers to understand individual differences in [intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligence), [cognitive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive) development, affect, [motivation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motivation), self-regulation, and self-concept, as well as their role in learning.

The field of educational psychology relies heavily on quantitative methods, including testing and measurement, to enhance educational activities related to instructional design, classroom management, and assessment, which serve to facilitate learning processes in various educational settings across the lifespan.

Educational psychology can in part be understood through its relationship with other disciplines. It is informed primarily by [psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychology), bearing a relationship to that discipline analogous to the relationship between [medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine) and [biology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biology). It is also informed by [neuroscience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neuroscience). Educational psychology in turn informs a wide range of specialities within educational studies, including [instructional design](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instructional_design), [educational technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Educational_technology), curriculum development, [organizational learning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organizational_learning), [special education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_education), [classroom management](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classroom_management), and student motivation. Educational psychology both draws from and contributes to [cognitive science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive_science) and the [learning sciences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning_sciences).

The field of educational psychology involves the study of [memory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memory), conceptual processes, and individual differences (via cognitive psychology) in conceptualizing new strategies for learning processes in humans. Educational psychology has been built upon theoriesof [operantconditioning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operant_conditioning), [functionalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_psychology), [structuralism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structuralism_(psychology)), [constructivism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructivism_(psychological_school)), [humanistic psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanistic_psychology), [Gestalt psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestalt_psychology), and [information processing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_processing).

Educational psychology has seen rapid growth and development as a profession in the last twenty years. [School psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School_psychology) began with the concept of intelligence testing leading to provisions for special education students, who could not follow the regular classroom curriculum in the early part of the 20th century. However, "school psychology" itself has built a fairly new profession based upon the practices and theories of several psychologists among many different fields. Educational psychologists are working side by side with psychiatrists, social workers, teachers, speech and language therapists, and counselors in attempt to understand the questions being raised when combining behavioral, cognitive, and social psychology in the classroom setting.

The following are definitions of education psychology by well known psychologists:

1. ”Educational psychology is that branch of psychology which deals with teaching and learning and also covers the entire range and behavior of the personality as related to education.”  ***Skinner***
2. “While general psychology is pure science, educational psychology is its application in the field of education with the aim of socializing an individual and modifying his behavior.”  ***Anderson***
3. “It is the systematic study of the educational growth and development of a child.”  ***Stephen***
4. “It is the science of education.” ***E.A. Peel***
5. “It is the study of those facts and principles of psychology which helps to explains and improves the process of education.” ***Walter B. Kolesink***

**Nature of Educational Psychology**

1. It applies psychological findings in education.
2. Educational Psychology studies systematically an individual development in educational set up.
3. It enables a teacher to perform his/her role in very effective manner in order to make the learning & teaching process productive one.
4. Educational Psychology is the scientific study of an individual life stages development from birth to death and so on.

**Top 6 Methods of Educational Psychology**

1.Introspection:

2.The Observational Method:

3.The Experimental Method:

4.The Clinical Method:

5,The Genetic or Developmental Method:

6.The Testing Methods:

**AIMS**

Educational psychology aims at the harmonious growth and rightful conduct of the children in too. It aims at the development of ‘wholesome personality’ and ‘continuous growth’. It aims at helping the teacher in providing facts and generalisation in his task of assisting the child to develop the harmonious personality. A few of the specific aims and objectives are discussed herewith.

(1) Educational psychology aims at developing right attitudes in the teacher about the educational problems. An effective management of learning is a key problem in educational psychology. From educational psychology the teacher knows the proper method of imparting instruction. He also knows the amount of learning which can be acquired by the child.

(2) Educational psychology aims at assisting the teacher to organize the material which to be taught to the child. The teacher studies the whole child and his mental make-up and chooses and organises the subject-matter properly.

(3) Educational psychology aims at studying heredity growth and maturation, environmental influences, language, thinking, the development of language and the process of socialisation in relation to their effect on the child as a learner. It assists the teacher to set up appropriate educational situations in order to bring about desirable change.

(4) It aims at assisting the teacher in treating their pupils with sympathy and understanding. It also aims at creating positive attitude towards learning.

(5) It aims at helping the teacher to understand his own task. The teacher faces many problems in the classroom as teaching situation. Educational psychology develops in the teacher a scientific attitude to solve different problems of education faced by him.

(6) Educational psychology aims at teaching, teachers how best to help their pupils to learn more effectively both in and out of class.

(7) It aims at providing the teacher with the proper method of teaching. The various teaching procedure are put in practice in teaching the child. Those which are psychologically sound are recommended for the teacher’s use.

(8) Conducting research is another important objective of educational psychology. Knowledge in this field keeps on developing from this practice of research methods.

(9) Educational psychology aims at the application of research findings in the learning situation itself.

(10) It also aims at developing sound methods of measuring and evaluating the achievements of the pupils objectively with pure objectively.

(11)Another significant aim of educational psychology is to guide the administrators in the organisation and administration of the educational instruction and to provide a scientific basis for the supervision of instruction.

(12) Educational psychology also aims at helping the teacher to provide proper guidance programme in the school having thorough knowledge of individual difference.