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# Comprehension Test for SBI Clerk Pre, IBPS Clerk Pre, RBI Assistant Pre, LIC Assistant Pre and IBPS RRB Exams.

## Passage No. 149

**Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given beside.**

"Memories of the love we felt in childhood towards our parents are among the most precious aspects of autobiographical memory we could think of," says lead author Lawrence Patihis, researcher at the University of Southern Mississippi. "Yet our findings suggest that these memories of love are **malleable** -- which is not something we would want to be true."

"If you change your evaluation of someone, you will likely also change your memory of your emotions towards them and this is true of memory of love towards mothers in childhood," Patihis explains.

For their first experiment, Patihis and coauthors Cristobal S. Cruz and Mario E. Herrera recruited 301 online participants. Some participants wrote about recent examples of their mother's positive attributes, such as showing warmth, **generosity**, competence, and giving good guidance; others wrote about recent examples of their mother's lack of these attributes. Participants in one comparison group wrote while receiving writing prompt and participants in another comparison group received no writing prompt at all.

The participants completed a survey assessing how they currently thought about their mother's attributes, including her warmth and generosity. They then completed the Memory of Love Towards Parents Questionnaire (MLPQ), which contained 10 items designed to measure the love participants remembered feeling for their mother at different ages (e.g., "During the whole year when you were in first grade, how often on average did you feel love toward your mother?" and "During the whole year when you were in first grade, how strong on average was your love toward your mother?"). The MLPQ also measured participants' current feelings of love for their mothers.

The participants completed the measures again 2 weeks and 4 weeks after the initial session.

The results showed that the writing prompts influenced participants' current feelings and their memories of love. Specifically, participants who were prompted to write about their mother's positive attributes tended to recall stronger feelings of love for their mother in first, sixth, and ninth grade compared with participants who wrote about their mother's lack of positive attributes.

These effects endured at the 4-week follow-up for first grade memories, but not for memories of sixth grade or ninth grade.

Additional findings showed the effects of the writing prompts were not simply the result of changes in participants' mood.

A second experiment, with another 302 online participants, **replicated** these findings. Importantly, the participants did not differ in their current assessments of their mother before receiving the writing prompt, indicating that the effects of the writing prompts were not due to preexisting differences among participants. The findings also revealed that participants' current feelings of love for their mothers, as measured at the start of the experiment, were misremembered 8 weeks later following the experimental manipulation. The writing prompt effects had begun to fade by the time the researchers conducted an 8-week follow-up after the experiment.

The authors plan to expand this research to explore whether the same effects emerge for other emotions and target individuals and they're also exploring whether successes in life might similarly alter childhood memories of emotion. In addition, the researchers hope to find out whether these effects might influence later behavior.

"The significance of this research lies in the new knowledge that our current evaluations of people can be lowered if we choose to focus on the negative, and this can have a side effect: the diminishing of positive aspects of childhood memories," says Patihis. "We wonder if wide-ranging reappraisals of parents -- perhaps in life or in therapy -- could lead to intergenerational heartache and estrangement. Understanding this subtle type of memory distortion is necessary if we want to prevent it."



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## Questions:

1. Which of the following can be inferred from the given passage?

I. Childhood memories always stay strong.

II. Feeling of love towards someone is based on our current evaluation of that person.

III. Emotions can be erased through technology based therapy.

- A. Only I
- B. Only II
- C. Only III
- D. Both I and II
- E. None of these

2. Which of the following is false in the context of the passage?

- A. Effects of writing prompts were long-lasting.
- B. current evaluations of people can be lowered if we choose to focus on their negative aspects.
- C. The researcher Lawrence Patihis was from University of Southern Mississippi.
- D. Options B and C
- E. All are true

3. The participants were asked to write their experiences primarily about whom of the following?

- A. Their parents
- B. Their father
- C. Their mother
- D. Their childhood friends
- E. None of these

4. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- A. Current feelings or emotions towards someone are more important than those of the past.
- B. Love towards mother stays forever, no matter what.
- C. Instances of success in life change our childhood memories of emotion towards someone.
- D. Both options A and C
- E. None of the above

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5. What of the following could be the most appropriate title of the passage?
- A. Love fades with time
  - B. Our current thinking can sway our memories of love
  - C. Childhood memories are always stronger than those of present
  - D. People, memoires and perception
  - E. None of the above
6. Which of the following is an antonym of the word **'malleable'** as given in bold in the context of the passage?
- A. palpable
  - B. skirmish
  - C. pliable
  - D. intractable
  - E. None of the above
7. Which of the following is a synonym of the word **'generosity'** as given in bold in the context of the passage?
- A. kindness
  - B. abundance
  - C. truthfulness
  - D. meager
  - E. None of the above
8. Which of the following is a synonym of the word **'replicated'** as given in bold in the context of the passage?
- A. vanished
  - B. repeated
  - C. urged
  - D. avoided
  - E. None of the above

**Correct Answers:**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
B	A	C	E	B	D	A	B

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## Explanations:

1. **Statement I.** Childhood memories always stay strong.

Refer to:

... **Yet our findings suggest that these memories of love are malleable.** ...

The highlighted part above implies a sense opposite to what's been stated in Statement I.

Hence, statement I is invalid in the context of the passage.

**Statement II.** Feeling of love towards someone is based on our current evaluation of that person.

Refer to:

**If you change your evaluation of someone, you will likely also change your memory of your emotions towards them ...**

The above sentence confirms what's been stated in statement II.

**Statement III.** Emotions can be erased through technology based therapy.

We can observe that nothing of this sort has been mentioned in the passage. Statement III is hence invalid.

Option B is hence the correct answer.

2. **Option A.** Effects of writing prompts were long-lasting.

Refer to:

**The findings also revealed that participants' current feelings of love for their mothers, as measured at the start of the experiment, were misremembered 8 weeks later following the experimental manipulation.**

The paragraph above talks exactly opposite of what's been stated in Statement I. Hence, statement I is false.

**Option B.** Our current evaluations of people can be lowered if we choose to focus on their negative aspects.

**Refer to:**

... our current evaluations of people can be lowered if we choose to focus on the negative ...

The highlighted part above confirms that the statement II given as option B is true.

Option C. The researcher Lawrence Patihis was from University of Southern Mississippi.

**Refer to:**

... says lead author Lawrence Patihis, researcher at the University of Southern Mississippi. ...

Clearly, the statement given as option C is also true and not false.

Option A is hence the correct answer.

**3. Refer to:**

For their first experiment, Patihis and coauthors Cristobal S. Cruz and Mario E. Herrera recruited 301 online participants. Some participants wrote about recent examples of their mother's positive attributes ...

Clearly, the participants were asked to write about **their mother as mentioned in the passage.**

Option C is hence the correct answer.

**4. Option A.** Current feelings or emotions towards someone are more important than those of the past.

Nothing about the importance about current or past feelings towards someone is mentioned in the passage. This confirms that option A is not true.

**Option B.** Love towards mother stays forever, no matter what.

Some participants wrote about recent examples of their mother's positive attributes, such as showing warmth, generosity, competence, and giving good guidance; others wrote about recent examples of their mother's lack of these attributes.

The above paragraph implies exactly opposite of what's been said in the statement given as option B.

**Option C.** Instances of success in life change our childhood memories of emotion towards someone.

**Refer to:**

The authors plan to expand this research to explore whether the same effects emerge for other emotions and target individuals and they're also exploring whether successes in life **might similarly** alter childhood memories of emotion.

The above paragraph implies that the researchers are yet to confirm that instances of success indeed change childhood memories of emotion. Hence, this is not true either.

Option E is hence the correct answer.

- 5.** The whole passage revolves around the idea that as our memories fade, we rely on our current assessment of a person to remember how we felt about them in the past.

Among the given options, option B can be considered the most suitable title of the passage.

Option B is hence the correct answer.

- 6. Malleable (Adjective):**

Easily influenced; pliable.

**Palpable (Adjective):**

able to be touched or felt.

**Skirmish (Noun):**

Fight, a short argument

**Pliable (Adjective):**

Easily influenced

**Intractable (Adjective):**

(of a person or situation) difficult or stubborn

Clearly, among the given choices, option D is an antonym of 'malleable'.

Option D is hence the correct answer.

**7. Generosity (Noun):**

The quality of being kind and generous.

**Abundance (Noun):**

A very large quantity of something.

**Truthfulness (Noun):**

The fact of being true

**Meagre (Adjective):**

Lacking in quantity or quality.

Clearly, the word 'kindness' is the synonym of the word 'generosity'.

Option A is hence the correct answer.

**8. Replicate (Verb):**

To repeat, make an exact copy of; reproduce.

Clearly, the word 'repeated' is the synonym of the word 'replicated' as given in the passage.

Option B is hence the correct answer.

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