

LEARNING AND ENVIRONMENT

On August 15th, 1977, the world lost one of its greatest psychologists Alexander R. Luria. Honored and respected in many countries of the world, Luria's 3000 scientific works have been translated into English and have influenced thinking in the fields of psychology, neurology and neuropsychology, education and speech pathology.

Luria's first translated work, "Nature of Human Conflicts" (1932), supported the idea that human behavior could not be reduced to a sum of neurological reflexes. He urged the study of the specific systems of behavior produced in the process of the individual's social and historical development.

Luria's psychology concentrates on the development of mental capacities through learning. The correct organization of a child's learning leads to mental development. One does not wait for a child to be "ready" to learn to read, for example, but teaches the child the pre-reading skills at the level at which he or she is functioning. In turn, the child's knowledge influences the structure of his intellectual processes. Learning is a social-historic process.

Luria and his team investigated such mental processes as perception, ability to generalize, logical reasoning, imagination and self-awareness. Luria's team discovered that new structures of cognitive activity appeared. Human consciousness was developing to a higher level as the society was transformed.

Luria was a true scientist and a true humanist who contributed to a social progress and to the development of human capacity.

I. Chose the right answer:

1. How many Luria's works have been translated into other languages?

- a) 250 works have been translated;
- b) 300 works have been translated;
- c) 350 works have been translated;

2. What idea did Luria's first work support?

- a) Human behavior could be reduced to a sum of neurological reflexes.
- b) Human behavior could be reduced to a specific system of behavior.

3. What does Luria's psychology concentrate on?

- a) His psychology concentrates on environmental influences.
- b) His psychology concentrates on the development of mental capacities through learning.
- c) His psychology concentrates on introspection.

4. What mental processes did Luria investigate?

- a) He investigates accommodation and assimilation.
- b) He investigated social aspects of mental capacities.
- c) He investigated perception, imagination and self-awareness.

II. Arrange the following in pairs of antonyms:

Birth	joy
On the one hand	to worsen
Anger	inside
To separate	death
Primary	regress
Achievement	to decrease
Within	on the other hand
To enhance	to unite
To improve	final