**MEANING AND CONCEPT OF INTELLIGENCE**

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***Meaning/Concept of intelligence:***

Each and every individual has their intelligence. It is universal, innate and acquired, dynamic, multifaceted capacity of an individual to act purposefully, think rationally, and deal effectively with the changing environment. In simple words intelligence is known as general mental ability of students. It is a complex and multidimensional mental ability that enables individuals to learn, reason, adapt to new situations, environments, face challenges and solve problems, and use knowledge, understanding and experiences effectively.

Psychologists define intelligence as the global capacity of an individual to act purposefully, think rationally, and deal effectively with the environment (as per David Wechsler). It involves not only intellectual performance but also adaptability, creativity, and application of knowledge in real-life contexts.

***NATURE OF INTELLIGENCE***

1. **General mental Capacity** of an individual.
2. **Universal** – Present in every individual, though its degree varies.
3. **Individual Differences**: It may not be same even in case of siblings of same parents.
4. **Innate and Acquired** – Has both hereditary basis and environmental influence.
5. **Dynamic** – Intelligence is not fixed; it develops with learning and experience.
6. **Multifaceted** – Includes reasoning, problem-solving, memory, creativity, and decision-making.
7. **Measured and Relative** – It can be assessed through standardized tests, but results are relative, not absolute.
8. **Predictive** – Intelligence often predicts academic and professional success, though not perfectly.
9. **May be improved**: Studies reveal that intelligence may be improved.
10. **Rational thinking**:
11. **Involves intellectual performance**
12. **Involves** adaptability, creativity, and application of knowledge in real-life contexts.

**Difference between Intelligence and Memory**

| **Aspect** | **Intelligence** | **Memory** |
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| **Meaning** | The overall ability to learn, understand, reason, and solve problems. | The ability to store, retain, and recall past experiences or information. |
| **Nature** | Dynamic, adaptive, and problem-solving oriented. | Static, concerned with reproduction of learned material. |
| **Scope** | Broader – involves reasoning, creativity, adaptability. | Narrower – limited to storage and retrieval. |
| **Dependency** | Can function even with weak memory by using reasoning and strategies. | Cannot operate independently without intelligence to organize and apply knowledge. |
| **Assessment** | Measured through intelligence tests (IQ). | Measured through memory span and recall tests. |

**Traits of Intelligence**

1. **Reasoning Ability** – Logical thinking and drawing valid conclusions.
2. **Abstract Thinking** – Understanding complex concepts and symbols.
3. **Problem-Solving Skill** – Finding effective solutions to novel situations.
4. **Adaptability** – Adjusting to changing environments.
5. **Creativity** – Generating original and innovative ideas.
6. **Critical Thinking** – Evaluating facts and evidence rationally.
7. **Learning Ability** – Capacity to acquire and apply new knowledge.
8. **Decision-Making** – Making sound judgments in practical situations.