What’s your theory?

We all think about why children behave the way that they do and what may have “caused” that to happen. Developmental and educational theorists have offered different answers to these large questions. What do you think? Read the questions below and circle the answers that best show what you believe (at least today).

1. Biological factors (genes, maturation) and social forces (parenting practices, peers, culture) contribute to children’s development. Which contributes most heavily?

a) Biological factors contribute more than 70% to child development outcomes.

b) Biological factors contribute 60%-70%; social forces contribute 30%-40%.

c) Biological factors and social forces are equally important.

d) Social forces contribute 60%-70%; biological factors contribute 30%-40%.

e) Social forces contribute more than 70% to child development outcomes.

2. Children are...

a) “Seething cauldrons” -- creatures that have basically negative impulses that must be controlled.

b) Neither inherently good nor inherently bad.

c) “Noble savages” -- creatures that are born with many positive and few negative tendencies.

3. Development from childhood through adolescence proceeds...

a) In stages -- that is, through a series of fairly abrupt changes.

b) Continuously -- in small increments without abrupt changes.

4. Children are basically...

a) Active creatures that play a major role in determining their own character.

b) Passive creatures whose characters are molded by parents, teachers, and other agents of society.

5. Character attributes such as aggressiveness or shyness –

a) First appear in childhood and remain relatively stable across adolescence.

b) First appear in childhood but may change rapidly during adolescence.

Question #

1 2 3 4 5

Write your answer pattern \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_