

## Defense Mechanisms Worksheet Questions and Answers PDF

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### Part 1: Building a Foundation

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#### What is the primary purpose of defense mechanisms?

*Hint: Think about the role of defense mechanisms in psychological processes.*

- A) To increase anxiety
- B) To protect the ego from anxiety ✓
- C) To enhance memory
- D) To improve social skills

■ The primary purpose of defense mechanisms is to protect the ego from anxiety.

#### Which of the following are considered defense mechanisms? (Select all that apply)

*Hint: Consider common psychological terms related to coping strategies.*

- A) Denial ✓
- B) Meditation
- C) Repression ✓
- D) Exercise

■ Denial and repression are examples of defense mechanisms.

#### Define the term "defense mechanism" in your own words.

*Hint: Think about how defense mechanisms function in psychology.*

**A defense mechanism is a psychological strategy used to cope with reality and maintain self-image.**

**List four types of defense mechanisms.**

*Hint: Consider common terms used in psychology.*

1. Type 1

**Denial**

2. Type 2

**Repression**

3. Type 3

**Projection**

4. Type 4

**Displacement**

Examples include denial, repression, projection, and displacement.

**Which defense mechanism involves attributing one's own unacceptable thoughts to others?**

*Hint: Think about how people might project their feelings onto others.*

- A) Displacement
- B) Projection ✓
- C) Regression
- D) Sublimation

The defense mechanism that involves attributing one's own unacceptable thoughts to others is projection.

## Part 2: Comprehension and Interpretation

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**Which of the following statements about defense mechanisms are true? (Select all that apply)**

*Hint: Consider the nature and function of defense mechanisms.*

- A) They are always conscious processes.
- B) They can be adaptive or maladaptive. ✓
- C) They help manage internal conflicts. ✓
- D) They are only used by adults.

Defense mechanisms can be adaptive or maladaptive and help manage internal conflicts.

**Explain how repression might manifest in an individual's behavior.**

*Hint: Think about how repressed memories or feelings can affect actions.*

Repression may manifest as forgetfulness, avoidance of certain topics, or emotional numbness.

**Which defense mechanism involves reverting to an earlier stage of development in response to stress?**

*Hint: Consider how children might react to stressful situations.*

- A) Regression ✓
- B) Rationalization
- C) Reaction Formation
- D) Intellectualization

■ The defense mechanism that involves reverting to an earlier stage of development is regression.

### Part 3: Application and Analysis

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**In which scenarios might sublimation be considered an adaptive defense mechanism? (Select all that apply)**

*Hint: Think about positive outlets for negative feelings.*

- A) Channeling aggressive impulses into sports ✓
- B) Ignoring a problem at work
- C) Writing music to express emotions ✓
- D) Blaming others for personal failures

■ Sublimation can be adaptive when channelled into sports or creative activities.

**Describe a real-world situation where displacement might occur and explain its potential impact.**

*Hint: Think about how emotions can be redirected.*

■ Displacement might occur when someone takes out their frustration from work on a family member, leading to conflict.

**A student who fails a test blames the teacher for not explaining the material well. Which defense mechanism is this an example of?**

*Hint: Consider how blame can be shifted in this scenario.*

- A) Denial
- B) Projection
- C) Rationalization ✓
- D) Compensation

■ This is an example of rationalization, where the student justifies their failure by blaming the teacher.

**Analyze the following scenario: A person who is angry at their boss comes home and yells at their family. Which defense mechanisms are likely at play? (Select all that apply)**

*Hint: Consider how emotions can be redirected towards others.*

- A) Displacement ✓
- B) Repression
- C) Projection
- D) Reaction Formation

■ Displacement is likely at play, as the person is redirecting their anger towards their family.

**Compare and contrast repression and denial, highlighting their differences and similarities.**

*Hint: Think about how both mechanisms deal with uncomfortable feelings.*

■ Repression involves unconsciously blocking out painful thoughts, while denial is a conscious refusal to accept reality.

## Part 4: Evaluation and Creation

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**Evaluate the effectiveness of using intellectualization as a defense mechanism in stressful situations. Which of the following are potential outcomes? (Select all that apply)**

*Hint: Consider the pros and cons of intellectualization.*

- A) Reduced emotional distress ✓
- B) Avoidance of addressing the root cause ✓
- C) Increased anxiety over time ✓
- D) Improved problem-solving skills

Intellectualization can reduce emotional distress but may also lead to avoidance of the root cause.

**Propose a strategy for someone to become more aware of their use of defense mechanisms and suggest ways to address them constructively.**

*Hint: Think about self-reflection and mindfulness techniques.*

A strategy could involve journaling to reflect on emotional responses and seeking feedback from trusted individuals.

**Which defense mechanism might be most beneficial in a therapeutic setting to help someone channel negative impulses into positive actions?**

*Hint: Consider mechanisms that promote healthy coping.*

- A) Sublimation ✓
- B) Denial
- C) Regression
- D) Projection

Sublimation is often seen as beneficial in therapy for channeling negative impulses into constructive activities.