

AP Psychology: Unit - 4 - Learning

Question 1

Which of the following scenarios illustrates a variable interval schedule of reinforcement?

- A. Receiving a paycheck every two weeks
- B. Holding regular, but unpredictable, fire drills
- C. Earning a prize for every five books read in the library's summer reading program
- D. Receiving five additional vacation days for each year of employment at a company

Question 2

Brian ate a tuna salad sandwich that had become tainted from being in the sun too long. Not long after eating, Brian became extremely nauseated and felt awful. After that, even the sight of a tuna sandwich caused Brian to feel nauseated. In this scenario, what is the conditioned response (CR)?

- A. tuna
- B. nausea
- C. mayo
- D. sight of any sandwich

Question 3

Maddie gets a speeding ticket, and her parents take her car away for 2 weeks. What type of Operational Conditioning is taking place?

- A. positive punishment
- B. negative punishment
- C. positive reinforcement
- D. negative reinforcement

Question 4

Which form of learning would most likely be studied in an operant chamber (Skinner box)?

- A. classical conditioning
- B. vicarious conditioning
- C. operant conditioning
- D. conditioned emotional responses

Question 5

Through direct experience with animals, small children come to anticipate that dogs will bark and that birds will chirp. This best illustrates what psychological learning concept?

- A. Associative learning
- B. Law of Effect
- C. Latent Learning
- D. Respondent behaviour
- E. Spontaneous recall

Question 6

Maddie gets a speeding ticket, and her parents take her car away for 2 weeks. This is an example of what reinforcement schedule?

- A. Positive punishment
- B. Negative punishment
- C. Positive reinforcement
- D. Negative reinforcement
- E. Rules enforcement

Question 7

What is an example of a secondary reinforcer?

- A. Instant satisfaction
- B. Money
- C. Food
- D. Positive reinforcement
- E. Negative reinforcement

Question 8

Leah is interested in helping her daughter learn manners. Each time her daughter says something that is close to appropriate, she rewards her. Eventually, her daughter should learn good manners. What term is explained by this process?

- A. Generalization
- B. Habituation
- C. Positive reinforcement
- D. Priming
- E. Shaping

Question 9

Which of the following is an example of a fixed-interval reinforcement schedule?

- A. Being paid by the week
- B. Getting a reward for good behavior once in a while
- C. Getting paid for each time-share you sell
- D. When a dog gets a treat every time it sits on command
- E. Winning money at a slot machine

Question 10

Responding to a stimulus in order to avoid electric shock is an example of what?

- A. Avoidance conditioning
- B. Escape conditioning
- C. Punishment
- D. Shaping
- E. Successive approximation

Question 11

Rats that do not find a positive reinforcer at the end of a maze learn slowly when compared to rats that do find a positive reinforcer at the end of a maze. However, if the first group does begin receiving a positive reinforcement at the end of a maze, their performance in the maze begins to match the second group's performance. This is an example of what effect?

- A. Behavior chaining
- B. Intrinsic learning
- C. Latent learning
- D. Law of effect
- E. Law of exercise

Question 12

Under which reinforcement schedule is it most important for an organism to learn to accurately estimate time?

- A. Combined ratio
- B. Fixed interval
- C. Fixed ratio
- D. Variable interval
- E. Variable ratio

Question 13

Which is most true of punishment?

- A. It has a long-range inhibitory effect upon behavior.
- B. It is effective as a means of extinction.
- C. It is effective in behavior control without undesirable side effects.
- D. It is effective specifically in cases of retroactive inhibition.
- E. Its inhibitory effect is only short-range, and the general behavior tendency remains essentially unchanged.

Question 14

What is the basis of Thorndike's Law of Effect?

- A. In addition to practice, there must be reinforcement.
- B. In addition to reinforcement, there must be reward.
- C. Neither practice nor reward is important to learning.
- D. Something learned with reinforcement can never be extinguished.
- E. Practice alone produces learning.

Question 15

The terms “reconditioning” and “spontaneous recovery” both describe the increase in a conditioned response that was believed to be extinguished. What is the key difference between these two terms?

- A. Spontaneous recovery occurs after a period with no exposure to either the conditioned response or unconditioned response, whereas reconditioning occurs after re-exposure to pairings of the conditioned stimulus and the unconditioned stimulus.
- B. Spontaneous recovery occurs for biologically prepared associations, whereas reconditioning can occur with any arbitrary learned association.
- C. Spontaneous recovery refers to classical conditioning and reconditioning refers to operant conditioning.
- D. Spontaneous recovery refers to positive reinforcement and reconditioning refers to negative reinforcement.
- E. The two terms are synonyms; there is no difference.

Question 16

In signal-detection research, occasionally a subject will report detecting a signal even in the signal's absence. What is this called?

- A. False alarm
- B. False positive
- C. Hit
- D. Miss
- E. Sandbagging

Question 17

A gambler's addiction is a result of what reinforcement schedule?

- A. Counterpunishment
- B. Fixed interval
- C. Fixed ratio
- D. Variable interval
- E. Variable ratio

Question 18

When an animal receives a punishment but learns that pressing a button will eliminate the punishment, escape learning takes place. However, if there is no response that will turn off the shock, the situation is best described as what?

- A. Avoidance learning
- B. Second-order conditioning
- C. Learned helplessness
- D. Latent learning
- E. Conditioned emotional response

Question 19

Every day, Zach walks home from school with his sister, Abby. One day, Abby has to stay late for soccer practice, so Zach tries to walk home by himself. He has never done this before, but he is surprised to discover that he learned the route correctly after all of those walks with his sister. What is Zach's situation an example of?

- A. Accidental learning
- B. Instinctual imprinting
- C. Latent learning
- D. Shaping
- E. Successive approximation

Answer Key

1. B

2. B
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. E
9. A
10. A
11. C
12. B
13. E
14. A
15. A
16. A
17. E
18. C
19. C