

HONORS PSYCHOLOGY | REVIEW QUESTIONS

The purpose of these review questions is to help you assess your grasp of the facts and definitions covered in your textbook. Knowing facts and definitions is necessary (but not sufficient) for success on formal exams, which assess your ability to conceptualize and analyze the material covered in textbook and lecture. An answer key is provided at the end of these review questions so you can check your answers.

1. A dog is classically conditioned to salivate to a tone of a particular pitch. It is later shown that the dog responds to higher and lower tones that have not been presented previously. This is an illustration of:
 - A) discrimination.
 - B) generalization.
 - C) habituation.
 - D) spontaneous recovery.
2. A variable ratio schedule would require:
 - A) an unpredictable number of responses before reinforcement.
 - B) a fixed number of responses before reinforcement.
 - C) an unpredictable amount of time before a response would be reinforced.
 - D) continuous reinforcement.
3. If we reinforce a response in the presence of a particular stimulus and do not reinforce the response in the absence of that stimulus, the stimulus is serving as a:
 - A) schedule of partial reinforcement.
 - B) reward contrast.
 - C) discriminative stimulus.
 - D) discriminative reinforcer.
4. What is the name of the researcher who found that food-avoidance learning violates certain principles of conditioning?
 - A) John Garcia
 - B) John Watson
 - C) Johnny Cash
 - D) Albert Bandura

5. What is the effect of partial reinforcement on the target behavior?
 - A) Compared to continuous reinforcement, partial reinforcement causes the behavior to be produced more irregularly.
 - B) Partial reinforcement is generally effective only if training began with it rather than continuous reinforcement.
 - C) Partial reinforcement produces greater resistance to extinction than does continuous reinforcement.
 - D) Partial reinforcement is more effective than continuous reinforcement for initial training.

6. What is the difference between positive and negative punishment?
 - A) Positive punishment decreases and negative punishment increases the likelihood that a behavior will recur.
 - B) Positive punishment produces expectancy behavior and negative punishment produces avoidance behavior.
 - C) Positive punishment entails the arrival of an unpleasant stimulus and negative punishment entails the removal of a pleasant stimulus.
 - D) All are true.

7. Richard Herrnstein conditioned pigeons to peck a key for grain. The pigeons were reinforced only when a slide with a tree in it was being shown and not when other “nontree” slides were shown. What did he discover?
 - A) The pigeons were unable to use the presence or absence of trees in the slides as discriminative stimuli.
 - B) The pigeons successfully discriminated between the two types of slides on new slides as well as original training slides, indicating that they were using the concept “tree.”
 - C) The pigeons managed to discriminate tree and nontree slides in the original training slides, but failed to do so with new slides, indicating that they were responding to some specific physical aspect of the original slides.
 - D) The pigeons pecked consistently in the presence of some tree slides but not at all in the presence of other tree slides, indicating that they had “personal” preferences.

8. Which of the following theorists did not concentrate on the stimuli that followed the learned response?
 - A) Ivan Pavlov
 - B) Edward Thorndike
 - C) B. F. Skinner
 - D) Edward Tolman

9. Negative and positive contrast effects are effectively measured using:
- A) classical conditioning.
 - B) response rate.
 - C) stimulus enhancement and goal enhancement.
 - D) all of these measuring methods.
10. Generalization between two stimuli can be abolished if the response to one is reinforced while the response to the other is extinguished. This is called:
- A) habituation.
 - B) discrimination training.
 - C) a reflex.
 - D) a response.
11. Habituation _____ stimulus-response sequence, whereas classical conditioning _____ stimulus-response sequence.
- A) eliminates an existing; strengthens an existing
 - B) produces a new; weakens an existing
 - C) strengthens an existing; eliminates an existing
 - D) weakens an existing; produces a new
12. Any process that increases the likelihood that a particular operant response will occur again is called:
- A) reinforcement.
 - B) punishment.
 - C) discrimination.
 - D) positive reinforcement.
13. Which approach to learning seeks to characterize learning exclusively in terms of observable stimuli and responses, without referring to events inside the learner?
- A) the cognitive perspective
 - B) the behavioral perspective
 - C) both cognitive and behavioral perspectives
 - D) none of these perspectives
14. A consequence of a response that makes the response more likely to occur again is called a(n):
- A) operant.
 - B) discriminative stimulus.
 - C) reinforcer.
 - D) shaper.

15. One characteristic of food-aversion learning that makes it *unlike* typical classical conditioning is that it will not take place if the unpleasant physiological responses to the food occur:
- A) immediately after eating it.
 - B) more than 20 minutes after eating it.
 - C) more than 2 hours after eating it.
 - D) before eating it.
16. Which of the following statements concerning conditioning of fear responses is TRUE?
- A) Fear is the only emotion that can be conditioned through classical conditioning.
 - B) Any stimulus that elicits fear has come to do so through conditioning.
 - C) Some stimuli can become classically conditioned fear stimuli more easily than others can.
 - D) Attempts to condition fear have repeatedly failed, suggesting that fear is purely a mental phenomenon.
17. In B.F. Skinner's operant-conditioning chamber, also known as the Skinner box, he studied operant behavior in rats by having the rat press a lever, which produces what effect?
- A) opening of a door
 - B) delivery of an electrical shock
 - C) delivery of a food pellet
 - D) stopping the experiment
18. In a _____, the period of time that must elapse before a response will be reinforced varies unpredictably around some average.
- A) variable-ratio schedule
 - B) fixed-ratio schedule
 - C) variable-interval schedule
 - D) fixed-interval schedule
19. Pavlov used what type of conditioning?
- A) cognitive
 - B) operant
 - C) classical
 - D) none of these types

20. Which of the following will lead to a decrease in the likelihood that a response will be repeated?
- A) punishment
 - B) negative reinforcement
 - C) both punishment and negative reinforcement
 - D) neither punishment nor negative reinforcement
21. Initially unfearful monkeys were shown a videotape of other monkeys reacting fearfully to a toy rabbit, a flower, and a toy snake. When later placed in the presence of these objects, what was the subject monkeys' response?
- A) Consistent with social learning, the subject monkeys subsequently showed a fear response to all three objects.
 - B) Consistent with biological predisposition, the subject monkeys subsequently showed a fear response only to the toy snake.
 - C) Consistent with operant conditioning, the subject monkeys did not respond fearfully to any of the objects because they had not been reinforced for doing so.
 - D) Consistent with natural selection, subject monkeys reacted with fear only to stimuli that resembled animate species—the toy rabbit and toy snake.
22. Generalization between two stimuli can be abolished if the response to one is reinforced while the response to the other is extinguished. This is called:
- A) habituation.
 - B) discrimination training.
 - C) a reflex.
 - D) a response.
23. Watson and Rayner's experiment on Little Albert demonstrated that human emotional responses:
- A) can be classically conditioned.
 - B) cannot be classically conditioned.
 - C) can be operantly conditioned.
 - D) cannot be operantly conditioned.

24. What is the difference between punishment and reinforcement?
- A) Punishment increases and reinforcement decreases the likelihood that a response will recur.
 - B) Punishment decreases and reinforcement increases the likelihood that a response will recur.
 - C) Punishment occurs after the response in question and reinforcement occurs prior to the response.
 - D) Punishment always involves unpleasant stimuli and reinforcement always depends on pleasant stimuli.
25. Many gambling systems (such as slot machines) are on _____ reinforcement schedules and this makes the gambling behavior highly resistant to extinction.
- A) fixed
 - B) negative
 - C) variable
 - D) continuous
26. In one of Pavlov's experiments, a dog learned to salivate at the sound of a bell. In this case, the bell was a(n) _____ and the salivation it elicited was a(n) _____.
- A) unconditioned stimulus; conditioned response
 - B) conditioned stimulus; conditioned response
 - C) conditioned stimulus; unconditioned response
 - D) conditioned reflex; conditioned response
27. When researchers allowed infants to select (over a 6-month period) what they wanted to eat from foods placed before them, they found that:
- A) infants preferred carbohydrates to protein.
 - B) infants preferred protein to carbohydrates.
 - C) infants' food preferences varied from time to time but over the long run each infant ate a nutritionally balanced diet.
 - D) the infants showed consistent and narrow food preferences, and all had signs of malnourishment by the end of the study.
28. In initial training for the acquisition of a response, the most efficient schedule of reinforcement is:
- A) fixed-ratio reinforcement.
 - B) fixed-interval reinforcement.
 - C) variable-ratio reinforcement.
 - D) continuous reinforcement.

29. If the removal of a stimulus following a response increases the likelihood that the response will reoccur, the stimulus is a:
- A) positive reinforcer.
 - B) negative reinforcer.
 - C) discriminative stimulus.
 - D) non-reinforcer.
30. Thorndike maintained throughout his career that _____ is a collection of separate learned skills, not a unitary characteristic of the person.
- A) training
 - B) intelligence
 - C) career
 - D) conditioning
31. The consequence of a response affects the likelihood of that response occurring again in the type of learning known as:
- A) classical conditioning.
 - B) operant conditioning.
 - C) observational learning.
 - D) imprinting.
32. The procedure in which only a portion of correct operant responses are reinforced is called:
- A) partial reinforcement.
 - B) observational learning.
 - C) extinction.
 - D) negative reinforcement.
33. An operant response will be most resistant to extinction if it is:
- A) continuously reinforced.
 - B) partially reinforced on a fixed schedule.
 - C) partially reinforced on a variable schedule.
 - D) never punished.
34. What was Pavlov's term for the environmental event that elicits an unlearned reflexive response?
- A) conditioned stimulus
 - B) unconditioned stimulus
 - C) unconditioned response
 - D) conditioned reflex

35. B. F. Skinner's laboratory procedures were most closely related to:
- A) Pavlov's salivation-measurement technique.
 - B) Thorndike's puzzle boxes.
 - C) Watson's procedures to condition a fearful response.
 - D) Tolman's maze-learning experiments.
36. In discrimination training for an operant response, the discriminative stimulus:
- A) reflexively elicits the response.
 - B) sets the occasion for the response.
 - C) strengthens the response, when withdrawn.
 - D) disinhibits the extinction of a response, when present.
37. Which of the following psychological perspectives is identified with an attempt to understand learning in terms of hypothetical mental entities, such as expectancies, that can be inferred from observable behavior?
- A) the evolutionary perspective
 - B) S-R theory
 - C) the cognitive perspective
 - D) both the evolutionary perspective and S-R theory
38. Reinforcing successive approximations to a desired response is known as:
- A) discriminative stimulus.
 - B) chaining.
 - C) partial reinforcement.
 - D) shaping.
39. Imprinting is best considered an example of:
- A) classical conditioning.
 - B) latent learning.
 - C) a specialized learning ability.
 - D) instrumental conditioning.
40. What is spontaneous recovery?
- A) when after a passage of time following extinction a conditioned reflex can be renewed
 - B) a reflex that depends on the unique conditions presented
 - C) a decline in the magnitude of a reflexive response when the stimulus is repeated several times in succession
 - D) a particular, well-defined bit of behavior

41. How did Edward Thorndike study instrumental responses in animals?
- A) He used a procedure similar to Pavlov's.
 - B) He placed animals in boxes from which they learned to escape.
 - C) He placed animals in boxes equipped with a bar that, when pressed, delivered a reward.
 - D) He trained rats to swim through flooded mazes.
42. What is imprinting?
- A) a specialized place-learning ability
 - B) a uniquely human type of learning
 - C) a restricted time period beyond which learning cannot occur
 - D) sudden and irreversible learning
43. In the experiment with the blue gourami fish, it was shown that they could be:
- A) susceptible to the appetizer effect.
 - B) sexually desensitized.
 - C) susceptible to conditioned drug reactions.
 - D) sexually conditioned.
44. Gregory Razran conditioned college students to salivate in response to the printed word *style* and then tested their response to the printed words *stile* and *fashion*. He found that the students salivated:
- A) more to *stile* than to *fashion*.
 - B) more to *fashion* than to *stile*.
 - C) very little to either of these words, and not reliably more to one than to the other.
 - D) a great deal to both of these words, and not reliably more to one than to the other.
45. In the operant procedure referred to as negative punishment, a response that is followed by:
- A) presentation of a stimulus, decreases in rate.
 - B) removal of a stimulus, decreases in rate.
 - C) presentation of a stimulus, increases in rate.
 - D) removal of a stimulus, increases in rate.
46. Natural selection has shaped the brains of omnivores to:
- A) try every kind of food themselves regardless of what their elders eat.
 - B) eat a number of new foods at one time to offset the potentially harmful effects of any one of them.
 - C) use smell and taste to distinguish known harmful foods from known harmless foods.
 - D) do all of these things.

47. The law of effect formulated by Thorndike states that:
- A) a stimulus will elicit a conditioned response if it has been paired with an unconditioned stimulus.
 - B) responses leading to satisfying results become more likely to be repeated, and those leading to unpleasant results become less likely to be repeated.
 - C) the effect of experiencing two events contiguously is that they will tend to be associated in the future.
 - D) any response that produces an effect will tend to be repeated in the future.
48. If, after a conditioned reflex has been learned, the conditioned stimulus is repeatedly presented *without* the unconditioned stimulus, which of the following is most likely to occur?
- A) habituation
 - B) shaping
 - C) discrimination
 - D) extinction
49. A signal that reliably precedes food becomes a conditioned stimulus not just for salivation but for:
- A) the appetizer effect.
 - B) food-seeking behavior.
 - C) a set of responses that help prepare the body for food.
 - D) reflexive responses.
50. In an experiment, children who were given praise and certificates for drawing spent more time drawing than did children not so rewarded. Later, when no external rewards were available, these same children spent less time drawing than did the unrewarded children. This effect is called:
- A) a positive contrast effect.
 - B) the overjustification effect.
 - C) the contiguity effect.
 - D) the counteractive effect.
51. A stimulus that increases the likelihood of a response when that response leads to removal of the stimulus is a:
- A) negative reinforcer.
 - B) positive reinforcer.
 - C) partial reinforcer.
 - D) negative punisher.

52. After classical conditioning has taken place, a learner can be trained not to generalize to other stimuli through a procedure known as:
- A) secondary reinforcement.
 - B) shaping.
 - C) discrimination training.
 - D) reward contrast.
53. Pavlov's initial discovery of what is now called classical conditioning emerged from his earlier studies of:
- A) operant behaviors in dogs.
 - B) mating behavior in dogs.
 - C) digestive reflexes in dogs.
 - D) neurological damage in dogs.
54. When the reward for a given amount of work is increased or decreased, rats respond:
- A) just like rats who have received the new level of reward all along.
 - B) as if they had learned to expect a certain level of reward, which they are comparing to the new level of reward.
 - C) for a considerable period of time just as if the level of reward had not changed.
 - D) with apparent confusion, ceasing normal responding and engaging in exploratory behavior.
55. Ralph Hefferline had subjects listen to music with occasional bursts of static superimposed. The static could be turned off with a twitch of the subject's left thumb. Hefferline discovered that these subjects could be _____ conditioned without _____.
- A) classically; their awareness
 - B) operantly; their awareness
 - C) classically; reinforcement
 - D) operantly; reinforcement
56. When a rat knows that a certain food will be produced when a certain stimulus is presented and it does not necessarily press the lever in order to attain the food, the rat's knowledge is known as:
- A) luck.
 - B) intelligence.
 - C) means-end relationship.
 - D) stimulus- response relationship.

57. When rats get sick several hours after eating food A, they:
- A) subsequently avoid foods that look like food A, even if they don't taste or smell like food A.
 - B) subsequently avoid foods that taste and smell like food A, even if they don't look like food A.
 - C) return to test food A by eating a minute quantity, then avoid it only if they become ill again.
 - D) are unable to make a connection between the food and the sickness because of the time elapsed.
58. When an operant response stops occurring because it is no longer reinforced, which of the following has taken place?
- A) secondary reinforcement
 - B) generalization
 - C) extinction
 - D) negative reinforcement
59. The technique of shaping is used to:
- A) help a learner discriminate between similar stimuli.
 - B) develop an operant response that might not otherwise occur.
 - C) quickly eliminate unwanted behavior in children who are in danger of harming themselves.
 - D) study observational learning in animals in their natural environments.
60. If the arrival of a stimulus following a response increases the likelihood that the response will recur, the stimulus is a:
- A) discriminative stimulus.
 - B) positive punisher.
 - C) positive reinforcer.
 - D) negative reinforcer.
61. The _____ view of _____ conditioning interprets it as the learning of means-end relationships.
- A) cognitive; operant
 - B) cognitive; classical
 - C) traditional behaviorist; operant
 - D) traditional behaviorist; classical

62. In Hefferline's experiment, people listened to music overlaid occasionally by static and were conditioned to produce a tiny thumb twitch to turn the static off. In that experiment the static going off served as a(n):
- A) negative reinforcer for the thumb twitch.
 - B) positive reinforcer for the thumb twitch.
 - C) unconditioned stimulus for the thumb twitch.
 - D) conditioned response for the thumb twitch.
63. The phenomenon in which a person who initially performs a task for no reward (except the enjoyment of the task) becomes less likely to perform that task for no reward after a period during which he or she has been rewarded for performing it, is a result of:
- A) latent learning.
 - B) negative contrast effect.
 - C) positive contrast effect.
 - D) overjustification effect.
64. Young monkeys watch videotapes of other monkeys reacting fearfully to snakes and flowers and are then shown the same snakes and flowers themselves. How do they react and why?
- A) They fear both flowers and snakes because of observational learning.
 - B) They fear flowers through observational learning; they fear snakes innately.
 - C) They do not fear flowers but they do fear snakes because of observational learning *and* because they have an innate bias to fear snakes.
 - D) They fear both flowers and snakes innately.
65. There are various species of birds that are shown to have a greater developed sense of spatial location. This is due to a larger:
- A) hippocampus.
 - B) occipital lobe.
 - C) amygdala.
 - D) parietal lobe.
66. How does a newly weaned wild rat learn what foods to eat?
- A) It eats only what its mother gives it.
 - B) It eats one or two foods at a time and if it gets sick, it avoids those foods in the future.
 - C) It eats all available foods in small quantities.
 - D) It observes older rats in the colony and eats only what they eat.

67. What type of reinforcement schedule produces the greatest resistance to extinction?
- A) continuous reinforcement
 - B) partial reinforcement on a variable schedule
 - C) partial reinforcement on a fixed schedule
 - D) Schedules of reinforcement have no bearing on resistance to extinction.

Answer Key - Learning Review

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B
11. D
12. A
13. B
14. C
15. A
16. C
17. C
18. C
19. C
20. A
21. B
22. B
23. A
24. B
25. C
26. B
27. C
28. D
29. B
30. B
31. B
32. A
33. C
34. B
35. B
36. B
37. C
38. D
39. C
40. A
41. B
42. D
43. D
44. B
45. B
46. C
47. B
48. D
49. C
50. B
51. A
52. C

- 53. C
- 54. B
- 55. B
- 56. C
- 57. B
- 58. C
- 59. B
- 60. C
- 61. A
- 62. A
- 63. D
- 64. C
- 65. A
- 66. D
- 67. B