

Learning Theory & Behaviorism Review Questions

- Using treat rewards, Leon taught his dog to lie down when he claps his hands. Now Leon's dog also lies down when he hears a car door close. This is an example of:
 - vicarious reinforcement
 - stimulus generalization
 - second-order conditioning
 - superstitious behavior
 - stimulus discrimination
- During a trivia game, Julie was surprised she remembered all the words to a popular commercial jingle even though she had never made an effort to remember it. This is an example of:
 - abstract learning
 - latent learning
 - biological preparedness
 - shaping
 - the Premack principle
- Near each shift's end, the boss walks by the work area and praises those who look productive. At first, staff increased their rate of work when they saw him, but now they increase their rate of work as the end of shift nears, even if he hasn't appeared yet. The workers have adapted to a ____ schedule of reinforcement.
 - fixed-interval
 - variable-interval
 - fixed-ratio
 - variable-ratio
 - continuous
- Alyssa conditioned her sister to squirm at the sound of the word "pancake" by repeatedly tickling her after saying it. "Pancake" is now a:
 - unconditioned stimulus
 - unconditioned response
 - neutral stimulus
 - conditioned stimulus
 - conditioned response
- This suggests that a stimulus must be salient and reliable in order for an association to be learned.
 - insight learning
 - the law of effect
 - the Rescorla-Wagner model
 - the Premack Principle
 - biological preparedness
- Timmy received a candy after raising his hand and answering a question. On subsequent questions, many other students quickly raised their hands, showing:
 - higher-order conditioning
 - chaining
 - shaping
 - negative reinforcement
 - vicarious reinforcement
- Trainers attempted to teach a chicken to turn on a jukebox by pecking and then dance, but instead it would only engage in repeated scratching and pecking behaviors, demonstrating:
 - insight learning
 - spontaneous recovery
 - aversive conditioning
 - instinctive drift
 - the law of effect
- Pulling on a strap reduces the annoying noise Sarah's backpack makes when she walks. As a result, she frequently pulls and readjusts this strap. Her behavior has been influenced by:
 - positive reinforcement
 - positive punishment
 - extinction
 - negative punishment
 - negative reinforcement

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9. His research on latent learning and cognitive maps revealed some limitations of simple stimulus-response behaviorist models:

- A. Edward Tolman
- B. John B. Watson
- C. B.F. Skinner
- D. Ivan Pavlov
- E. Edward Thorndike

10. After watching many Marvel movies, Terrell now lands in a superhero pose each time he jumps off the monkey bars at the playground, demonstrating:

- A. an unconditioned response
- B. observational learning
- C. primary reinforcement
- D. instrumental learning
- E. biological preparedness

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1. B – stimulus generalization

Leon's dog is generalizing by responding to the stimulus of the car door closing as if it were the sound of hands clapping.

2. B – latent learning

Latent learning occurs without any reinforcement and isn't demonstrated until there is a reason to demonstrate it.

3. A – fixed-interval

In a fixed-interval schedule, a reward is only available after a certain amount of time has passed. As this time approaches, the frequency of behavior increases to make sure to get the reward.

4. D – conditioned stimulus

While it may have previously been a neutral stimulus, by repeatedly pairing "pancake" with tickling, Alyssa has caused her sister to acquire an association between the word and being tickled.

5. C – the Rescorla-Wagner model

This model, also known as the contingency model of classical conditioning helps explain why some associations are learned more readily than others. The organism must notice a stimulus (salience) that has been a reliable predictor of a certain outcome (such as receiving food).

6. E – vicarious reinforcement

Even though the other students haven't been rewarded themselves, seeing Timmy rewarded has influenced their behavior.

7. D – instinctive drift

Instinctive drift occurs when a behavior being conditioned is too similar to an instinctual behavior, causing the instinct to take over. In this case, the desired behavior is too similar to the chicken's natural foraging behavior, which takes over and prevents conditioning.

8. E – negative reinforcement

In negative reinforcement a behavior is increased because doing it decreases an unpleasant or aversive stimulus. For Sarah, fiddling with the strap is reinforced because it removes the annoying noise her backpack makes, encouraging her to repeat this pulling behavior.

9. A – Edward Tolman

Though Tolman's research followed behaviorist designs, the results revealed the need for explanations which included cognitive components.

10. B – observational learning

Terrell has learned this behavior simply by seeing others perform it. Seeing these heroes (who are high-status and attractive) model this behavior has also likely played a role in his motivation to reproduce it.