

Name:

AP Psych 12  
Ms Carey  
Unit 6

**Operant Conditioning Questions**  
**B.F. Skinner & Reinforcers**  
**/20**

1. The psychologist most closely associated with the study of operant conditioning was
  - A) B. F. Skinner.
  - B) Ivan Pavlov.
  - C) John B. Watson.
  - D) Albert Bandura.
  - E) John Garcia.
  
2. B. F. Skinner's work elaborated what E. L. Thorndike had called
  - A) shaping.
  - B) behaviorism.
  - C) observational learning.
  - D) the law of effect.
  - E) latent learning.
  
3. A Skinner box is a(n)
  - A) soundproofed cubicle in which organisms are classically conditioned in the absence of distracting noise.
  - B) aversive or punishing event that decreases the occurrence of certain undesirable behaviors.
  - C) "slot machine" used to study the effects of partial reinforcement on human gambling practices.
  - D) chamber containing a bar or key that an animal can manipulate to obtain a reward.
  - E) television projection device designed for use in laboratory studies of observational learning.
  
4. Shaping is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ procedure.
  - A) latent learning
  - B) operant conditioning
  - C) classical conditioning
  - D) observational learning
  - E) cognitive mapping

5. Five-year-old Trevor is emotionally disturbed and refuses to communicate with anyone. To get him to speak, his teacher initially gives him candy for any utterance, then only for a clearly spoken word, and finally only for a complete sentence. The teacher is using the method of
- A) secondary reinforcement.
  - B) delayed reinforcement.
  - C) spontaneous recovery.
  - D) shaping.
  - E) latent learning.
6. A rat in a Skinner box is reinforced with a food pellet only if the rat moves close to the lever. Next, reinforcement is withheld until the rat stands on its hind legs, then until the rat touches the lever, and finally, until the rat presses the lever. This example best illustrates
- A) latent learning.
  - B) spontaneous recovery.
  - C) modeling.
  - D) shaping.
  - E) generalization.
7. Escape from an aversive stimulus is a \_\_\_\_\_ reinforcer.
- A) positive
  - B) negative
  - C) secondary
  - D) partial
  - E) delayed
8. Closing your bedroom door so that you won't hear the TV that is interfering with your studying is an example of
- A) positive reinforcement.
  - B) conditioned reinforcers.
  - C) partial reinforcement.
  - D) negative reinforcement.
  - E) punishment.

9. A trainer wants to train a chicken to peck a key to obtain food. If she wants the chicken to learn this trick quickly and the behavior to be resistant to extinction, she should use \_\_\_\_\_ reinforcement until the response is mastered and then follow with a period of \_\_\_\_\_ reinforcement.
- A) positive; negative
  - B) negative; positive
  - C) primary; secondary
  - D) partial; continuous
  - E) continuous; partial
10. Coffee shops that reward customers with one free cup of coffee after every ten coffee purchases are using a \_\_\_\_\_ reinforcement schedule.
- A) fixed-interval
  - B) variable-interval
  - C) fixed-ratio
  - D) variable-ratio
  - E) intermittent-continuous
11. A small-town radio disc jockey frequently announces how much money is currently in a jackpot. Every day several randomly selected residents are called and asked to identify the amount, and thereby win it. Those who keep track of the jackpot amount are most likely to be reinforced on a \_\_\_\_\_ schedule.
- A) fixed-ratio
  - B) variable-interval
  - C) variable-ratio
  - D) fixed-interval
  - E) partial-delayed
12. A slow but steady rate of operant responding is associated with the \_\_\_\_\_ schedule of reinforcement.
- A) fixed-ratio
  - B) immediate-interval
  - C) variable-ratio
  - D) variable-interval
  - E) fixed-interval

13. When 4-year-old Michael hit his sister, his Mom placed him in a time-out by having him stand in a corner for 4 minutes. A time-out is considered to be
- A) positive punishment.
  - B) negative reinforcement.
  - C) positive reinforcement.
  - D) negative punishment.
  - E) continuous reinforcement.
14. If rats are allowed to wander through a complicated maze, they will subsequently run the maze with few errors when a food reward is placed at the end. Their good performance demonstrates
- A) shaping.
  - B) latent learning.
  - C) delayed reinforcement.
  - D) spontaneous recovery.
  - E) modeling.
15. According to B. F. Skinner, human behavior is controlled primarily by
- A) biological predispositions.
  - B) external influences.
  - C) emotions.
  - D) unconscious motives.
  - E) conscious thoughts.
16. B. F. Skinner believed that teaching machines could promote effective learning because they allow for both
- A) continuous reinforcement and latent learning.
  - B) positive reinforcement and punishment.
  - C) classical and operant conditioning.
  - D) shaping and immediate reinforcement.
  - E) observational learning and spontaneous recovery.
17. B. F. Skinner's critics have claimed that he neglected the importance of the individual's
- A) personal freedom.
  - B) early childhood experiences.
  - C) pleasure-seeking tendencies.
  - D) cultural background.
  - E) past behaviors.

18. Tennis instruction that reinforces soft, short lobs over the net before attempting to reinforce hard, long, cross-court hits best illustrates the process of
- A) shaping.
  - B) modeling.
  - C) discrimination.
  - D) delayed reinforcement.
  - E) insight learning.
19. A learned association between a response and a stimulus is to \_\_\_\_\_ as a learned association between two stimuli is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) latent learning; observation learning
  - B) generalization; discrimination
  - C) operant conditioning; classical conditioning
  - D) secondary reinforcement; primary reinforcement
  - E) acquisition; extinction
20. Both classical and operant conditioning are forms of
- A) associative learning.
  - B) respondent behavior.
  - C) observational learning.
  - D) intrinsic motivation.
  - E) latent learning.

## Answer Key

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