

Sample Questions - Psychothon

Subject Fundamental Question

1. Which of the following accurately describes the difference between classical and operant conditioning?

- a) **Classical conditioning involves associating a neutral stimulus with an involuntary response, while operant conditioning involves associating a behavior with its consequences.**
- b) Classical conditioning involves reinforcing desired behaviors, while operant conditioning involves extinguishing undesired behaviors.
- c) Classical conditioning relies on positive reinforcement, while operant conditioning relies on negative reinforcement.
- d) Classical conditioning is only applicable to humans, while operant conditioning is only applicable to animals.

2. Choose the correct order of the stages in Piaget's theory of cognitive development:

- a) Sensorimotor, Formal operational, Preoperational, Concrete operational
- b) Formal operational, Sensorimotor, Concrete operational, Preoperational
- c) Preoperational, Concrete operational, Formal operational, Sensorimotor
- d) **Sensorimotor, Preoperational, Concrete operational, Formal operational**

3. Which of the following best describes the concept of the "mere exposure effect"?

- a) **People tend to remember the first and last items in a list more readily than those in the middle.**

- b) **Increased familiarity with a stimulus leads to increased liking for that stimulus.**
- c) Memories are more easily retrieved when the individual is in the same state of consciousness as they were when the memory was formed.
- d) People tend to attribute their successes to internal factors and their failures to external factors.

4. According to Erik Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, during adolescence, the primary conflict is _____.

- a) Intimacy vs. Isolation
- b) **Identity vs. Role Confusion**
- c) Generativity vs. Stagnation
- d) Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt

5. Which of the following is NOT a symptom of major depressive disorder?

- a) Persistent sadness or irritability
- b) Loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed
- c) **Grandiosity and inflated self-esteem**
- d) Significant weight loss or gain without dieting, or changes in appetite

On-site Learning Question

6. In social psychology, the halo effect is a cognitive bias where the perception of one positive trait influences the overall impression of a person. For example, if someone is perceived as being very intelligent, others may also assume they are competent, trustworthy, and good at their job, even without evidence for these other traits.

Which of the following scenarios BEST illustrates the halo effect?

- a) A job candidate is rejected because they made a poor first impression by arriving late to the interview.
- b) An employee is assumed to be a hard worker because they are always the first to arrive and last to leave the office.
- c) A manager believes that a team's success is due to the leadership of a charismatic team member, even though other factors contributed significantly.**
- d) A customer gives a restaurant a high rating based on the quality of its ambiance, overlooking the mediocre food quality.

7. The bystander effect refers to the phenomenon where individuals are less likely to intervene in an emergency situation when others are present. This diffusion of responsibility can result in bystanders failing to take action or provide assistance, even when they perceive that help is needed.

Which psychological principle BEST explains the occurrence of the bystander effect?

- a) Social facilitation
- b) Deindividuation
- c) Pluralistic ignorance**
- d) Group polarization

8. Self-efficacy, as proposed by Albert Bandura, refers to an individual's belief in their ability to achieve specific goals or tasks. This belief influences the individual's motivation, behavior, and resilience in the face of challenges. Bandura suggested that

self-efficacy can be developed through mastery experiences, vicarious learning, social persuasion, and emotional arousal.

Which of the following statements best reflects the significance of self-efficacy in human behavior?

- a) Individuals with high self-efficacy are less likely to experience anxiety or stress in challenging situations.
- b) Self-efficacy beliefs play a crucial role in determining the goals individuals set for themselves and their willingness to pursue them.**
- c) Self-efficacy is primarily determined by external factors such as social support and feedback from others.
- d) Low self-efficacy often leads to overestimation of one's abilities, resulting in unrealistic goal-setting.

9. Stereotype threat refers to the experience of anxiety or concern about confirming a negative stereotype related to one's social group. This psychological phenomenon can impair performance on tasks relevant to the stereotype, as individuals may become preoccupied with disproving the stereotype rather than focusing on the task itself.

Which of the following BEST characterizes the impact of stereotype threat on cognitive performance?

- a) Stereotype threat primarily affects individuals who strongly identify with their social group.
- b) Individuals experiencing stereotype threat tend to perform better on tasks relevant to the stereotype.
- c) Stereotype threat can lead to underperformance on tasks that are important to one's**

self-identity.

- d) The effects of stereotype threat are limited to individuals who consciously endorse stereotypes about their social group.

10. Consider the concept of cognitive biases, which are systematic errors in thinking that affect the judgments and decisions of individuals. One such bias is the 'confirmation bias,' where people tend to favor information that confirms their existing beliefs or values. This bias can lead to a skewed perception of reality, as individuals may unconsciously ignore or undervalue information that contradicts their preconceptions.

Based on the material provided, which of the following behaviors would be an example of the confirmation bias in action?

- a) A scientist conducting experiments to test hypotheses that challenge their current understanding of a phenomenon.
- b) An investor who only reads financial reports that support their decision to invest in a particular company.**
- c) A student who seeks out a variety of viewpoints to better understand a complex issue.
- d) A researcher who carefully examines data from multiple sources to ensure the validity of their conclusions.

Subject Advanced Question

11. Consider the concept of the fundamental attribution error in social psychology. Which of the following scenarios BEST illustrates the fundamental attribution error?

- a) A person attributes their own success to luck but attributes others' success to their abilities.
- b) An individual blames external factors for their failure but attributes others' failures

to their lack of effort.

- c) A student assumes that a classmate who performs well on an exam must have studied harder than others.
- d) **A manager concludes that an employee's poor performance is due to their inherent lack of skills rather than considering situational factors.**

12. Which of the following statements accurately describes a key aspect of social identity theory?

- a) Individuals strive to maintain a positive self-concept by comparing themselves to others who are similar to them.
- b) **Group membership provides individuals with a sense of belonging and social identity, influencing their behavior and attitudes.**
- c) People are motivated to reduce cognitive dissonance by adjusting their attitudes and beliefs to align with their behavior.
- d) Prejudice and discrimination arise from competition between different social groups for limited resources.

13. Which of the following factors is MOST likely to increase the likelihood of bystander intervention in an emergency situation?

- a) The presence of a larger number of bystanders.
- b) Diffusion of responsibility among bystanders.
- c) Ambiguity about the need for help.
- d) **Awareness of others' actions or willingness to help.**

14. Which of the following scenarios BEST illustrates group polarization?
- a) **A group of environmental activists becomes more committed to their cause after discussing the urgency of environmental issues.**
 - b) Political candidates moderate their views in response to feedback from a diverse group of constituents.
 - c) Team members adjust their opinions to conform to the consensus view expressed by the group leader.
 - d) Participants in a study become less likely to conform to the majority opinion after learning about dissenting viewpoints.
15. In the study of social psychology, the phenomenon where individuals conform to the majority's opinion, even when it is contrary to their own beliefs, is known as:
- a) Group Cohesion
 - b) Groupthink
 - c) Social Facilitation
 - d) **Asch Conformity**