Psyco 381 Spring 2010 Final Exam Sample Questions

The final exam will be held on Friday, 18 June from 11:30-1:30 in ETL E-2001. The exam will consist of 80 multiple choice questions. The exam is cumulative, but about two thirds of the questions are derived from material (chapters and lectures) covered after midterm 2.

Below are some sample questions for the final exam. Answers are at the bottom.

- 1. Which of the following is NOT likely to occur due to an extinction procedure?
- a. The subject becomes aggressive.
- b. The subject learns the CS and US are no longer associated.
- c. The subject increases the variety of responses it makes.
- d. The subject decreases the number of conditioned responses it makes.
- 2. Which theory suggests that the nature of the avoidance response is shaped by punishment?
- a. The two-process theory of avoidance.
- b. SSDR theory.
- c. The safety-signal hypothesis.
- d. Shock-frequency reduction theory.

3. A pigeon is trained to peck in the presence of a 500nm wavelength light and is not reinforced for pecking in the presence of a 510nm wavelength light. After training, most performance will be demonstrated in response to a

- a. 400nm light
- b. 490nm light
- c. 500nm light
- d. 505nm light

4. Which of the following is NOT considered a paradoxical reward effect?

- a. The behavioural momentum effect.
- b. The overtraining extinction effect.
- c. The magnitude reinforcement effect.
- d. The partial reinforcement extinction effect.

5. Bob was washing dishes to avoid getting fired. Just then he heard the sound of his crazy boss arriving at the restaurant. According to the modern two-process theory of learning, he will now wash the dishes

- a. less rapidly.
- b. more rapidly.
- c. at the same rate.
- d. more rapidly at first and then less rapidly.

6. If you wish to quickly and permanently suppress a behaviour through the use of punishment you should

- a. initially use mildly aversive stimuli.
- b. initially use aversive stimuli of short duration.
- c. initially use strong and longer aversive stimuli.
- d. use mild aversive stimulation and progress to stronger stimuli.

7. Which of the following conditioning procedures will result in the flattest stimulus generalization gradient?

- a. no training prior to testing with various frequency tones.
- b. S + = 500 Hz tone; S = no tone
- c. S + = 1000 Hz tone; S = 900 Hz tone
- d. S + = 600 Hz tone; S = 550 Hz tone
- 8. When shaping the behaviour of an organism, you must
- a. reinforce all responses.
- b. set each criterion so that most of the existing responses are reinforced.
- c. set each criterion so that only the response forms that exceed existing responses are reinforced.
- d. set each criterion so that at least some of the existing responses are reinforced.

9. Bechterev had human subjects place their fingers on a shock plate, signaled with a warning CS, and then delivered a brief shock. He noticed that after a few trials, subjects were lifting their fingers from the plate in response to the CS, thus reducing the shock US. This experiment is best characterized as an investigation of

a. aversive classical conditioning mechanisms.

- b. passive avoidance.
- c. active avoidance.
- d. omission conditioning.

10. To counteract spontaneous recovery,

- a. you can present cues present during the extinction phase.
- b. you can present cues present during the conditioning phase.
- c. you can wait approximately a week following the extinction phase before testing.

d. you can do nothing; spontaneous recovery is remarkably robust.

11. A fully colourblind dog is trained to press a lever in the presence of a 590nm wavelength coloured light. The stimulus generalization gradient when the dog is tested in the presence of other colours will likely

a. be flat.

b. rise steeply just before the 590nm mark, then drop shortly after.

c. gradually rise and fall, with a peak at 590nm.

d. rise to a highest point at 590nm and remain there.

12. Which of the following is NOT true of the general-process approach to learning?

a. Elemental processes are assumed to operate in a similar manner across learning situations.

b. Evidence of learning in diverse species provides support for the general-process approach.

c. The generality is assumed to exist in the contents and speed of learning.

d. The generality is assumed to exist in elemental laws of association.

13. A guinea pig can prevent mild footshock by turning a running wheel during a brief tone CS. Early in training the guinea pig receives several shocks because it fails to spin the wheel in time. However, over several trials the guinea pig successfully learns to prevent the shock. These later successful trials are most correctly referred to as

a. escape trials.

b. avoidance trials.

c. omission trials.

d. acquired drive trials.

14. According to experiments that demonstrate the restoration of extinction performance,

a. S-O associations are particularly susceptible to extinction.

b. spontaneous recovery cannot be altered.

c. spontaneous recovery is due to changes in the context due to the passage of time.

d. R-O associations are particularly susceptible to extinction.

15. The stimulus-element approach assumes that

a. stimulus elements maintain their individuality in their control of behaviour even when in a compound stimulus.

b. stimulus elements maintain their individuality in their control of behaviour except when in a compound stimulus.

c. stimulus elements maintain their individuality in their control of behaviour only when in a compound stimulus.

d. stimulus elements act as a configuration to control behaviour when they are presented in a compound stimulus.

16. People addicted to heroin are likely to show ______ when compared to non-addicted individuals.

a. a discounting function with fewer peaks

b. a discounting function with more peaks

c. a more shallow reward discounting function

d. a steep reward discounting function.

17. Recent evidence suggests that

a. the sequential theory better explains PREE.

b. the frustration theory better explains PREE.

c. both sequential and frustration mechanisms can promote responding during extinction.

d. neither frustration theory nor sequential theory explain PREE.

18. Lesions of the amygdala produce an animal that

- a. fears many arbitrary stimuli.
- b. can no longer be classically conditioned.
- c. appears relatively fearless.
- d. can no longer form new memories.

19. After eating a foot-long spicy chili dog at the homecoming game, your friend becomes violently ill. Now he cannot stand to eat chili, but still loves hot dogs. His ability to eat hot does was likely spared because of

- a. discrimination training.
- b. stimulus generalization.
- c. overshadowing.
- d. contextual conditioning.

20. Object learning involves making an association between which of the following?

- a. Any two naturally occurring stimuli.
- b. The same feature of two objects.
- c. Different features of the same object.
- d. An arbitrary stimulus and a biologically relevant stimulus.

21. According to the sequential theory,

- a. continuous reinforcement trains and animal to be persistent in the absence of reinforcement.
- b. partial reinforcement teaches an animal the difference between rewarded and nonrewarded trials.

c. there is nothing about continuous reinforcement that teaches an animal to respond when it expects nonreward.

d. memory of nonreward becomes the cue for performing the instrumental response.

22. Suppose you want an organism to learn to make avoidance responses in a free-operant avoidance procedure. To aid in training, you should provide

a. a longer S-S interval and a shorter R-S interval.

- b. a longer R-S interval and a shorter S-S interval.
- c. short S-S and R-S intervals.
- d. long S-S and R-S intervals.

23. Stimulus control of instrumental behaviour is demonstrated by which of the following?

- a. Similar responding in the presence of similar stimuli.
- b. Similar responding in the presence of different stimuli.
- c. Differential responding in the presence of different stimuli.

d. Differential responding in the presence of similar stimuli.

24. Which two closely related events constitute a reflex?

- a. Eliciting outcome; corresponding reward.
- b. Eliciting stimulus; corresponding response.
- c. Eliciting response; corresponding outcome.
- d. Eliciting response; corresponding reward.

25. A flat stimulus generalization gradient indicates that subjects are

- a. not responding to conditioning.
- b. responding similarly to several stimuli.
- c. responding mostly but not exclusively to the test stimulus.

d. responding only to the test stimulus.

26. Which theory rejects the importance of instrumental conditioning in the development of avoidance behaviour?

- a. The predatory imminence hypothesis.
- b. The safety-signal hypothesis.
- c. SSDR theory.
- d. The shock-frequency reduction theory.

27. Which of the following is not true of the modern two-process theory?

a. It assumes that the primary outcome of the classical conditioning that occurs during instrumental conditioning trials involves the learning of a particular response.

b. It assumes that the rate of an instrumental response will be modified by the presentation of a classically conditioned stimulus.

c. It assumes that classically conditioned stimuli do not always suppress responding, as in the CER procedure.

d. It assumes that central emotional states become conditioned to either situational cues or to discriminative stimuli.

28. Repeated presentations of a tactile stimulus make the skin receptors less sensitive, and responding decreases across trials. What is this an example of?

- a. Habituation.
- b. Sensitization.
- c. Sensory adaptation.
- d. Response fatigue.

29. Which model suggests that whether conditioned responding reflects excitation or inhibition depends on the excitatory value of the CS and the excitatory value of the contextual cues present during training?

- a. Temporal models.
- b. The Rescorla-Wagner model.
- c. The comparator hypothesis.
- d. Attentional models.

30. In driving school, you are reinforced for driving into an intersection when the light is green, but not reinforced when the light is red. This is an example of

- a. a stimulus discrimination procedure.
- b. a stimulus generalization procedure.
- c. the peak-shift phenomenon.
- d. the configural-cue approach.

31. According to Staddon and Simmelhag's reinterpretation of Skinner's superstitious behaviour, what is the periodicity of the terminal responses best explained by?

a. Instinctive drift.

- b. Species-typical responses that reflect other sources of motivation when food is unlikely.
- c. Species typical responses that reflect the anticipation of reward.
- d. Instrumental responding via adventitious reinforcement.

32. Which theory suggests that the stimuli accompanying avoidance responses provide positive reinforcement for avoidance behaviour?

- a. The response prevention theory.
- b. The safety-signal hypothesis.
- c. The shock-frequency reduction hypothesis.
- d. The two-process theory of avoidance.

33. The opponent-process theory suggests that alcoholics continue drinking to

- a. avoid opponent after-effects.
- b. increase opponent after-effects.
- c. enjoy the primary pleasurable effects.
- d. enjoy the secondary pleasurable effects.

34. Thirsty pigeons are presented with keylight-water pairings and begin to peck the keylight. Once keypecking develops, the birds are allowed to drink freely. Their keypeck behaviour drops off dramatically. What does this suggest that their response to the key is mediated by?

a. Second-order conditioning.

- b. Response-response learning.
- c. Stimulus-response learning.
- d. Stimulus-stimulus learning.

35. Which of the following is NOT true about avoidance behaviour?

a. Conditioned fear and avoidance responding are highly positively correlated.

b. The results of acquired drive experiments support the two-process theory of avoidance.

c. During early stages of avoidance training, most of the trials are escape trials.

d. Generally, one-way shuttle avoidance is easier to learn than two-way.

ANSWERS

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. B 4. A
- 5. B
- 6. C
- 7. A
- 8. D
- 9. C
- 10. A
- 11. A 12. C
- 13. B
- 14. C
- 15. A
- 16. D
- 17. C
- 18. C
- 19. C 20. C
- 21. D
- 22. B
- 23. C 24. B
- 25. B
- 26. A
- 27. A
- 28. C
- 29. C
- 30. A
- 31. C 32. B
- 33. A
- 34. D
- 35. A