Practice Test Questions

Multiple Choice

1. To say that learning is “demonstrated” by changes in behavior is to suggest that
   (a) if we cannot remember something, we did not learn it in the first place.
   (b) some changes in behavior do not last very long, or are cyclical.
   (c) the only way we can be sure if people have learned anything is to ask them
      if they have.
   (d) learning is an internal process inferred from performance.

2. As Pavlov noted, when a dog is first brought to the laboratory and stood on a table,
   and a bell is sounded, the first thing that we will notice is
   (a) an orienting reflex.
   (b) an unconditioned stimulus.
   (c) habituation or acclimation.
   (d) no response from the dog.

3. In the Pavlovian example of classical conditioning, the UCR was __________ and the
   CR was __________.
   (a) a bell; salivation
   (b) food powder; salivation
   (c) a bell; food powder
   (d) salivation; salivation

4. If we were to demonstrate spontaneous recovery in a classical conditioning procedure, it
   would occur following extinction and
   (a) the introduction of a new stimulus, similar to the CS.
   (b) a period of re-pairing the CS and the UCS.
   (c) a rest interval.
   (d) the UCS.

5. Which process is virtually the opposite of generalization?
   (a) discrimination
   (b) reinforcement
   (c) acquisition
   (d) habituation

6. We say that systematic desensitization is an application of classical conditioning. If
   this is so, what serves as the UCR at the beginning of treatment?
   (a) an irrational fear
   (b) an object or event that causes fear
   (c) a state of calm or relaxation
   (d) an object or event that causes calm or relaxation
7. Classical conditioning may be relevant in drug addiction in what sense?
   ___ a. Some drug addicts really know that they should stop using, but don’t know how.
   ___ b. The environment in which drugs are taken can be conditioned to increase tolerance.
   ___ c. Which drug an addict takes depends upon which produces the most reinforcement.
   ___ d. No matter what a user does, some drugs are more addictive than others.

8. A stimulus will most effectively serve as a CS if
   ___ a. it is repeatedly presented after the presentation of the UCS.
   ___ b. it naturally produces an orienting reflex.
   ___ c. its presentation reliably predicts the UCS.
   ___ d. it is repeatedly paired with the appropriate CR.

9. In demonstrating taste aversions, the UCS will be
   ___ a. a feeling of nausea or stomach pain.
   ___ b. some food with a distinctive taste.
   ___ c. any agent that naturally causes nausea or stomach pain.
   ___ d. behaviors that allow the organism to avoid certain tastes.

10. The basic thrust, or premise, of operant conditioning is that
   ___ a. under the proper circumstances, any organism can learn to make any response.
   ___ b. organisms only learn responses that are in their own best interest.
   ___ c. behaviors are shaped or controlled by their consequences.
   ___ d. people learn only if they really want to.

11. If operant conditioning is successful, what is most likely to be changed?
   ___ a. the rate or probability of a response
   ___ b. cognitive representations within the organism
   ___ c. the stimuli that produced the learned response
   ___ d. the strength or nature of a response

12. A rat in an operant chamber is given a pellet of food each time it presses a lever. After 100 pellets have been provided for lever pressing, the rat no longer gets any pellets when it presses the lever. What is most likely to occur next?
   ___ a. The lever-pressing response will extinguish.
   ___ b. The rat will become frustrated, anxious, and aggressive.
   ___ c. The rat will continue to press the lever at the same rate.
   ___ d. The rat’s operant rate will spontaneously recover.

13. You want to reinforce Mickey for hanging his coat in the closet, but he never does so. He simply drops his coat on the floor as he walks through the door. Which of these procedures would be most effective now?
   ___ a. physical punishment
   ___ b. discrimination learning
   ___ c. shaping
   ___ d. negative reinforcement
14. In operant conditioning, discrimination training is most a matter of
   ___a. learning right from wrong.
   ___b. discovering the differences between reinforcement and punishment.
   ___c. differential reinforcement.
   ___d. extinction followed by spontaneous recovery.

15. Primary reinforcers are
   ___a. learned.         ___c. acquired.
   ___b. conditioned.    ___d. biologically-based.

16. The major difference between positive and negative reinforcement is whether
   ___a. something is given or taken away
   ___b. rates of responses go up or down
   ___c. responses are rewarded or punished
   ___d. reinforcers are innate or learned

17. Which of the following provides the best example of NEGATIVE reinforcement?
   ___a. paying Billy a dollar for each “A” or “B” on his report card
   ___b. having a root canal procedure to ease the pain of a severe toothache
   ___c. spanking Amy for playing with the water in the toilet bowl
   ___d. using a token economy to modify the behaviors of a severely retard child

18. Using each of the following reinforcement schedules, different rats are trained to
    press levers at the same high rate. The lever pressing of rats trained on a
    __________ reinforcement schedule will now extinguish most quickly.
    ___a. continuous       ___c. fixed-interval
    ___b. fixed ratio      ___d. variable interval

19. Which statement concerning punishment is most justified?
    ___a. Because it creates anxiety, it should never be used with children.
    ___b. Physical punishment is more effective than psychological punishment.
    ___c. Punishment is really only effective if it has been threatened repeatedly.
    ___d. Punishment decreases the rate of the responses that it follows.

20. In general, cognitive approaches to learning tend to emphasize
    ___a. the interaction of genetics and experience.
    ___b. knowing ahead of time what will serve as a reinforcer.
    ___c. changes inside the organism that may not be reflected in behavior.
    ___d. the role of learning in the acquisition of emotions.

21. If learning is “latent,” it is, by definition,
    ___a. of no real value to the organism.
    ___b. not (yet) reflected in behavior.
    ___c. learned, but not remembered.
    ___d. displayed only in social situations.
22. When birds bury seeds for use in the winter months, 
   ___ a. they generally have no idea where to find them when the need arises. 
   ___ b. they hide so many seeds that they cannot fail to find at least a few to get by on. 
   ___ c. they form a cognitive map and actually remember where the seeds are hidden. 
   ___ d. the birds leave little “markers” on the ground to guide their search in winter. 

23. Which of the following does your text offer as an example of social learning theory at work? 
   ___ a. “how-to-do-it” programs on PBS television 
   ___ b. Head Start preschool programs 
   ___ c. college programs for returning adult students 
   ___ d. software programs for word processing. 

24. Of the following, what is it that makes Bandura’s social learning theory social? 
   ___ a. the fact that it is a very cognitive approach to learning 
   ___ b. the concepts of vicarious reinforcement or punishment 
   ___ c. the requirement that learning be the result of practice or experience 
   ___ d. the fact that it can only be found in humans and not in nonhumans 

True/False 

1. ____ True ____ False   Ivan Pavlov won a Nobel Prize for Psychology in 1902. 
2. ____ True ____ False   In a demonstration of classical conditioning, the first response a subject is likely to make is an orienting reflex. 
3. ____ True ____ False   Emotional responses that have been classically conditioned will not extinguish, no matter how many times the CS is presented alone. 
4. ____ True ____ False   Because of discrimination training, a child bitten by a German Shepard dog may become frightened of a cocker spaniel. 
5. ____ True ____ False   The strength of the UCR sets limits on the strength of the CR. 
6. ____ True ____ False   Skinner stated the Law of Effect after observing rats (and pigeons) in his operant chambers. 
7. ____ True ____ False   Shaping is an operant conditioning technique accomplished by the method of successive approximations. 
8. ____ True ____ False   You may be punishing responses even though you are intending to reinforce them.
9. **True**  **False**  Everything else being equal, negative reinforcement is a good thing to happen to you.

10. **True**  **False**  Because it requires a certain amount of intelligence, only humans are capable of forming cognitive maps.

11. **True**  **False**  Children are more likely to imitate the behaviors of persons who are reinforced for their behaviors than they are to imitate the behaviors of persons who are punished for their behaviors.

12. **True**  **False**  To say that a learner has a “field-dependent style” is to suggest that such a learner prefers learning situations that are outdoors and not in a standard classroom.