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Free Introductory Psychology CLEP Practice Test

10 questions from InstantCert's 371-card Introductory Psychology study guide

How to use this PDF

Each of these questions is a sentence with one blank and four choices. Pick the best fit, mark it, and keep going. The answer key with explanations starts after question 10, so do all 10 before you look. No timer. On the real exam you get about 57 seconds per question, so if you want a challenge, give yourself 9 and a half minutes for the set. One caveat before you start: the real exam has 13 categories, and these 10 have nothing on Personality, Motivation and Emotion, Treatment, or Statistics.

What your score means

0 to 4 correct

The Psychology CLEP runs on vocabulary and the psychologists attached to it, and a score in this range usually means the terms are not there yet. Ten questions is a sample, not a diagnosis. Take Round 2 on the page linked at the end before you decide how much work is ahead of you.

5 to 7 correct

Right in the middle. Close enough to the line to be worth studying for, and not close enough to walk in cold on an exam that about half of test takers fail. Take Round 2 and see if the number holds.

8 to 10 correct

You know the history, the nervous system, conditioning, and memory. Keep in mind that a good score here says nothing about the parts this set does not sample. It has no question on Personality (7 to 8% of the real exam), Motivation and Emotion, Treatment, or Statistics. Take Round 2, then put your study time into those categories and into the theorists.

Questions

QUESTION 1 OF 10 | HISTORY, APPROACHES, AND METHODS

_____ epitomized the behaviorist approach more than any other psychologist.

A. Piaget
B. Skinner
C. Erikson
D. Freud

QUESTION 2 OF 10 | HISTORY, APPROACHES, AND METHODS

_____ (1822-1911) was a first cousin of Charles Darwin, and was greatly influenced by him.

A. Sir Walter Raleigh
B. Sir Francis Drake
C. Sir Francis Bacon
D. Sir Francis Galton

QUESTION 3 OF 10 | BIOLOGICAL BASES OF BEHAVIOR

The neurons that carry impulses away from the brain or spinal cord toward our muscles and glands are called _____ neurons.

A. motor
B. sensory
C. inter
D. receptor

QUESTION 4 OF 10 | SENSATION AND PERCEPTION

The _____ system is designed to detect the position and motion (or acceleration) of the head in space. As a sensory system we are hardly aware of it.

A. vertigo
B. kinesthetic
C. limbic
D. vestibular

QUESTION 5 OF 10 | STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

On some occasions, LSD (a hallucinogenic drug) gives rise to the experience of _____.

A. synthesis
B. synesthesia
C. grandeur
D. sleepwalking

QUESTION 6 OF 10 | LEARNING

Pavlov's study is now known as _____ conditioning.

A. operant
B. formal
C. organic
D. classical

QUESTION 7 OF 10 | COGNITION

_____ memory stores our life events and experiences.

A. Episodic
B. Procedural
C. Semantic
D. Implicit

QUESTION 8 OF 10 | DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

_____ is one of the most notable cognitive reactions during the preoperational stage of cognitive development. The child becomes very me and I oriented, unable to appreciate the world from anyone else's perspective or point of view.

A. Egocentrism
B. Object permanence
C. Operational thought
D. Propositional thought

QUESTION 9 OF 10 | SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

People are very prone to take responsibility for success and to blame others or circumstances for failure. This is called the _____ bias.

A. self-concept
B. self-serving
C. self-actualization
D. actor-observer

QUESTION 10 OF 10 | PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS AND HEALTH

Psychogenic _____ is a condition of amnesia accompanied by unexplained travel or change of location.

A. dissociation
B. panic
C. fugue
D. locomotion

Answer Key

1. B Skinner

B.F. Skinner was the leading exponent of the school of psychology known as behaviorism, which explains the behavior of humans and other animals in terms of the physiological responses of the organism to external stimuli. Like other behaviorists, he rejected unobservable phenomena of the sort that other forms of psychology, particularly psychoanalysis, had studied, concerning himself only with patterns of responses to rewards and stimuli.

2. D Sir Francis Galton

Galton was intrigued by the theory of evolution and by the possibilities of improving the human race. He reasoned that before one could improve the human condition, one first needed to measure and catalog the range of human abilities and aptitudes as they exist at the moment. He devised countless tests and measurements of individual differences.

3. A motor

Motor neurons transmit signals away from the central nervous system toward the skeletal muscles. They carry instructions to tissues and effect change, such as causing a hand to jerk away from a hot stove or causing an eye to blink.

4. D vestibular

It does not enter consciousness as does vision, audition (hearing), somesthesis (touch), olfaction (smell) and taste. Even though we are not usually aware of the sensations produced by the vestibular apparatus, the normal functioning of it is essential for motor coordination, eye movements and posture.

5. B synesthesia

In this condition, a stimulus of one modality is perceived in a different modality, a crossing-over of sensory processing. For example, the individual may hear colored lights.

6. D classical

This is a type of learning in which an originally neutral stimulus comes to evoke a new response after having been paired with another stimulus that reflexively evokes the same response. In Pavlov's experiment, the dog's reflex--salivating, became a conditioned response to the bell. Salivating is an unconditioned response to food, but a conditioned response to the sound of a bell.

7. A Episodic

It is a time-related memory, and is very much autobiographical. For example, a memory of your tenth birthday would be episodic--you remember it as an event or associated with a specific time. On the other hand, remembering the meaning of 'justice' would go into semantic memory--you probably don't remember when or where you learned what that word means.

8. A Egocentrism

Egocentrism refers to the inability to see from other peoples' point of view. For example, an egocentric child might not understand that the mother is too tired to play, because the child just took a nap and is full of energy, and can't imagine that his mother doesn't feel the same way.

9. B self-serving

Several studies report evidence of the self-serving bias. One of these considered students who had received a good or bad grade on an examination. Those receiving a good grade typically attributed it to their own hard work or intelligence. Meanwhile, those who received a bad grade, attributed it to a bad teacher or to bad luck.

10. C fugue

In a fugue state, an individual suddenly leaves home, doesn't remember how or why, forgets their identity and may develop a new identity. Fugue states are typically short in duration, most lasting less than 24 hours.

Want 10 more? Take Round 2 online

Round 2 is 10 more questions from the same 371 cards. It covers the Visual Cliff experiment, the two halves of the autonomic nervous system, reinforcement, problem solving, and the monkeys raised with surrogate mothers. Take Round 1 on the page below, enter your email on the score screen, and the Round 2 link follows.

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