

Exam 2 Study Guide

PSY 201 – General Psychology Online

Chapters 5-7

Chapter 5 – Learning

- Learning – What is it?
A relatively permanent change in behavior, or behavior potential, as a result of experience.
- Ivan Pavlov – Who was he? What was his contribution to learning theory?
Pavlov was a Russian physiologist who conducted an experiment on dogs and their digestive processes. He was researching how they salivate, when, and how often when he discovered the learning theory. He noticed the dogs would salivate when they heard footsteps and things that could be associated with food.
- Classical conditioning – What is it? Be able to identify each component in a scenario.
Learning that occurs when a neutral stimulus is repeatedly paired with an unconditioned stimulus; because of this pairing, the neutral stimulus becomes a conditioned stimulus with the same power as the unconditioned stimulus to elicit the response in the organism.
 - Important terms:
 - UCS, UCR, NS, CS, and CR
UCS/UCR- in respondent conditioning we begin with an unconditioned stimulus (UCS) that elicits an unconditioned response (UCR).
NS- a stimulus that doesn't naturally elicit an unconditioned response in an organism.
CS- a stimulus that elicits a conditioned response in an organism.
CR- the response that is elicited by a conditioned stimulus.
 - Stimulus generalization versus stimulus discrimination
Stimulus generalization is responding in a like fashion to similar stimuli while stimulus discrimination is responding only to a particular stimulus.
 - Taste aversion – What is it? How many pairings must occur before a taste aversion is learned?
Classical conditioning that occurs when an organism pairs the experience of nausea with a certain food and becomes conditioned to feel ill at the sight, smell, or idea of the food. Only a single pairing of the food must occur before taste aversion is learned.
- Operant conditioning – What is it? Be able to identify each component in a scenario
A type of learning in which the organism learns through the consequences of its behavior.
 - Important terms:
 - Reinforcement
 - Positive versus negative reinforcement
Positive reinforcement is strengthening a behavior by adding something pleasant to the environment of the organism and negative is removing something unpleasant.
 - Primary versus secondary reinforcement
Primary reinforcement is a reinforcer that is reinforcing in and of itself and secondary is a reinforcer that is reinforcing only because it leads to a primary reinforcer.
 - Schedules of reinforcement (i.e., fixed interval, fixed ratio, variable interval, and variable ratio)