Introduction to Psychology Take Home Exam (2)

Hi- I just wanted to go over some things to remember, if we decide to have Exam 3 a Take Home Exam too.

* Make sure to put your name on your Exam.
* I think we will standardize the margins and font size. Let’s do 1 inch margins all the way around, and let’s do Times New Roman 12 point font.
* Read over the question and your answer a few times to make sure you answered every part/every question(s), and to make sure your answer makes sense. Almost everyone failed to answer one or more questions, probably because they didn’t double check.
* If you are going to type your answers on the question sheet I sent you, maybe put your answer in a different color or something so that you can easily tell if you answered the question(s) I asked.
* Before sending it to me, read over for grammar and spelling mistakes. I may take off for these next time.
* If we do the third exam this way, I will label the questions with point values next time so you know how much each question is worth.

I am going to give you some examples of good answers to some of my questions. These answers were taken from your classmates’ answers.

2. In your own words, describe the activation-synthesis theory for why we dream.

The theory for why we dream is because our brain is experiencing random neural firing in the brainstem. When we dream, we are activating a mechanism that normally interprets sensory input. We are thinking about things and trying to put it together by making images in our head of how it would play out. Our brain tries to make sense of things by creating stories. When we dream the limbic areas are active and the frontal lobes are inactive.

10. What are the main differences between Classical/Pavlovian Conditioning and Operant/Instrumental Conditioning? For the Dennis the Menace Cartoon, what is the Pavlovian component and what is the operant component.

Here are two good answers for this:

The main difference between classical and operant conditioning is that in classical conditioning, the stimuli are presented regardless of the behavior of the organism, whereas in operant conditioning, the behavior of the organism operates on the environment. For the cartoon, the Pavlovian response is the dog starts salivating, and the operant response is the dog running to the Kitchen.

Pavlovian conditioning elicits a reflex, where the subject can’t help but respond, while operant conditioning results in a learned behavior. In the Dennis the Menace cartoon, the operant response is the dog and cat running to the kitchen, while the Pavlovian response would be salivation.

13. What is a behavior that you teach a child or pet that has been shaped? What are the steps in this shaping process?

Teaching a dog to sit. The first step is to find some kind of food your dog likes and then to make sure he knows you have it. The next step is to put the food in your fist and hold it by the dog’s face. Slowly move your hand to the back of the dog’s head, allowing him to follow with his nose. He will eventually be forced to sit, and that is when you reward him. Repeat until he will sit as soon as your hand is in a fist.

18. If a friend asked you about Observational Learning, what might you tell her about this and about the “Bobo doll” study?

I am going to take the first part of one student’s answer and the second part of another.

Observational learning is the process of learning through watching others, retaining the information, and then later performing the same behavior or more. A group of children was shown a video of a woman acting with violence towards a blow up clown doll, and another group of children was not shown the video. Each child was left to play in a room with numerous toys including the blow up doll. Those that viewed the video acted with violence towards the doll. Some children even created new ways to bludgeon or otherwise maim the blow up doll. Those that were not shown the violent video barely even noticed the doll in the first place.

23. Imagine that a friend of yours was absent on the day we discussed H.M. Tell this friend about H. M. in about a paragraph. Include answers to these questions: Why did H.M. have surgery, what were the results of the surgery, what tasks did he do fine on and what tasks didn’t he do fine on. What have we learned from this case?

H.M. was a man who suffered from severe epilepsy, and had surgery removing part of his temporal lobes to fix that. The surgery resulted in anterograde amnesia, an inability to form new memories or learn new information. He was given a task to draw an outline while looking at it through a mirror. Each time he was given the task, he didn’t remember ever doing it before, but he got progressively better, displaying that his implicit memory was still functional. This case proved that the hippocampus and areas around it are involved in the storage of new explicit memories.

Hopefully those give you an idea of the sort of answer I was hoping for.

If you want to discuss your exam, I would be happy to schedule a MSTeams meeting just with you and we can do that.