Psychology
Ch. 1: The Science of Psychology  Practice Test Answer Key
Mr. Minervini

1. In the definition of psychology, the term mental processes refers to __________.
   a) internal, covert processes  
   Correct. Mental processes are internal.
   b) outward behavior
   c) overt actions and reactions
   Incorrect. Overt means outward, not internal.
   d) only animal behavior
   e) only emotional behavior
   ANS: a, p. 4, F, LO=1.1, (1)

2. You are at a basketball game and the arena is packed; the crowd is evenly split between fans of the two teams. At one point, the referee makes a call. Half of the fans yell insults; the other half of the fans shout their approval. The event reminds you of the topic of today’s lecture in psychology class. What was the likely topic of the lecture?
   a) hypothesis testing
   b) experiments
   Incorrect. The fans are really not part of any treatment groups.
   c) psychoanalysis
   d) extraneous variables
   e) bias
   Correct. The fans are showing bias and this is an important issue.
   ANS: e, p. 4, A, LO=1.1, (2)

3. Mei was sent to the school psychologist to be tested. Based on her IQ scores it was decided that she would do well in the gifted child program. This is an example of which goal of psychology?
   a) describing behavior
   Incorrect. Explaining focuses on why it is happening.
   b) explaining behavior
   Correct. Mei’s score served as a predictor (“would do well”) of performance.
   c) predicting behavior
   d) controlling behavior
   e) internalizing behavior
   ANS: c, p. 5, A, LO=1.1, (2)

4. A teacher tells the school psychologist that Kate is late to class, does not turn in her homework, squirms around a lot in her seat, and swings her feet constantly. This is an example of which goal of psychology?
   a) describing behavior
   Correct. We only know WHAT she is doing.
   b) explaining behavior
   Incorrect. Explaining focuses on why it is happening, not what is happening.
   c) predicting behavior
   d) controlling behavior
   e) inhibiting behavior
   ANS: a, p. 5, A, LO=1.1, (2)

5. The question “Why is it happening?” refers to which of the following goals in psychology?
   a) description
   Incorrect. Describing does not answer the question why.
   b) definition
   c) explanation
   Correct. Asking “why” calls for an explanation.
   d) prediction
   e) control
6. The question “When will it happen again?” refers to which of the following goals in psychology?
a) definition
b) description
c) explanation
Incorrect. Explanation deals with the present.
d) control
e) prediction
Correct. Prediction deals with future events.
ANS: e, p. 5, F, LO=1.1, (1)

7. The question “How can it be changed?” refers to which of the following goals in psychology?
a) description
b) definition
c) explanation
d) prediction
Incorrect. Prediction does not cause change.
e) control
Correct. Control modifies behavior.
ANS: e, p. 5, F, LO=1.1, (1)

Psychology Then: The History of Psychology

8. At the close of the nineteenth century, Gerhard is excited to find that he has been accepted for training in the psychology laboratory of Wilhelm Wundt. It is likely that Gerhard will be trained to __________.
   a) analyze how to break down his sensations into their most basic elements
   Correct. Wundt was a structuralist.
   b) determine the function or purpose of a particular human behavior
   Incorrect. Wundt was not a functionalist.
   c) listen intently while individuals tell him of their depression or nervousness
   Incorrect. Wundt was not a functionalist.
   d) carefully feel the bumps on a person’s head in order to determine his or her character traits
   e) discover how people form patterns in the sensory information that is available to them
ANS: a, p. 7, A, LO=1.2, AP I.2, (2)

9. If a functionalist from the 1870s were alive today, where would we most likely find him?
   a) in a laboratory, studying principles of perception
   b) in a school, working to improve teaching methods
   Correct. Functionalists applied research.
   c) in a mountain retreat, contemplating the meaning of life
   Incorrect. This would be considered pure research.
   d) in a sleep laboratory, trying to determine if our need for sleep is biologically based
   e) in a laboratory determining the parts of the brain affected by alcohol
ANS: b, p. 7-8, A, LO=1.2, AP I.2, (3)

10. “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts” is a statement associated with the perspective of __________.
    a) behaviorism
    b) introspection
    c) functionalism
d) psychoanalysis
    Incorrect. Psychoanalysis was concerned with unconsciousness, not “wholes.”
e) Gestalt psychologists
    Correct. “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts” was the theme of the Gestaltists.
ANS: e, p. 9, F, LO=1.3, AP I.2, (1)

11. The early perspective called Gestalt psychology has evolved into the current perspective called __________.
    a) psychoanalysis
b) cognitive psychology
Correct. Gestalt psychology is now part of cognitive psychology, which focuses on perception as well as learning, memory, and thought processes.

c) behavioral psychology
Incorrect. This area of psychology only focuses on observable behavior.

d) social psychology

e) humanistic psychology
ANS: b, p. 9, F, LO=1.3, AP I.2, (1)

12. The belief that the unconscious mind has an influence on one’s behavior is part of what early field of psychology?

a) structuralism
Incorrect. Structuralism does not examine the unconscious.

b) functionalism

c) psychoanalysis
Correct. The unconscious is a major component of psychoanalysis.

d) behaviorism

e) Gestalt psychology
ANS: c, p. 9-10, F, LO=1.3, AP I.2, (1)

13. The class is playing a game of Jeopardy! and it is your turn. “I’ll take ‘Pioneers in Psychology’ for $50.” The revealed answer is “Focused on unconscious factors.” Just before the buzzer sounds, what will you say?

a) “Who is B. F. Skinner?”
Incorrect. Skinner rejected the unconscious.

b) “Who are the humanists?”

c) “Who is Sigmund Freud?”
Correct. Freud based his entire theory on the unconscious.

d) “Who are the behaviorists?”

e) “Who is Wilhelm Wundt?”
ANS: c, p. 9-10, C, LO=1.3, AP I.5, (2)

14. Sallie noticed that when her alarm clock goes off in the morning, her dog Ruffles is standing by her bed salivating. Every morning when Sallie wakes to the alarm, she immediately rolls out of bed and feeds Ruffles, who very much enjoys his canned dog food. It is likely that _________.

a) Sallie has conditioned Ruffles to enjoy canned dog food
Incorrect. Enjoying dog food is something that would be instinctive in a dog, and therefore would be unconditioned.

b) Sallie has conditioned Ruffles to sleep next to her bed

c) Sallie has conditioned Ruffles to salivate over canned dog food

d) Sallie has conditioned Ruffles to salivate to the sound of her alarm clock
Correct. Ruffles has learned to associate the sound of the alarm clock with being fed.

e) Sallie has conditioned Ruffles to salivate to her getting out of bed
ANS: d, p. 10, A, LO=1.3, AP I.2, (1)

15. Pavlov’s research demonstrated that _________.

a) involuntary reaction (salivation) could occur in response to an unrelated stimulus (sound of a bell)
Correct. This is true based on his research of conditioning.

b) an unrelated stimulus (salivation) could occur in response to an involuntary reaction (sound of a bell)
Incorrect. This is not true, as the involuntary reaction is salivation and the unrelated stimulus is the sound of the bell.

c) involuntary reaction (sound of a bell) could occur in response to an unrelated stimulus (food)

d) an unrelated stimulus (food) could occur in response to an unrelated stimulus (barking)

e) an unrelated stimulus (food) could occur in response to an related stimulus (barking)
ANS: a, p. 10, F, LO=1.3, AP I.5, (3)

16. Which founding contributors to psychology helped develop behaviorism?

a) Gestalt and Wundt
b) Freud and Watson  
*Incorrect. Freud was a psychoanalyst.*

c) Pavlov and Wundt
d) Rogers and Tichener
e) Watson and Pavlov  
*Correct. They contributed to behaviorism.*  
ANS: e, p. 10, C, LO=1.3, AP I.5, (2)

**Psychology Now: Modern Perspectives**

17. Professor Nushwack approaches questions about human behavior from a perspective that emphasizes unconscious dynamics within the individual, such as inner forces or conflicts. It is most likely that she accepts which of the following psychological approaches?  
   a) social-cognitive learning  
   b) learning  
   c) cognitive approach  
   d) psychodynamic approach  
   e) sociocultural  
*Incorrect. The cognitive approach focuses on how people think, remember, and store information, not on the unconscious.*  
*Correct. The psychodynamic approach emphasizes unconscious dynamics.*  
ANS: d, p. 13, C, LO=1.4, AP I.2, (2)

18. Who claimed that behavior is affected by reinforcement?  
   a) William James  
   b) Sigmund Freud  
   c) Wilhelm Wundt  
   d) Max Wertheimer  
   e) B. F. Skinner  
*Incorrect. Freud did not emphasize positive reinforcement.*  
*Correct. Skinner believed that behavior that is followed by good consequences is reinforced.*  
ANS: e, p. 14, F, LO=1.4, AP I.5, (1)

19. Which perspective focuses on free will and self-actualization?  
   a) psychoanalysis  
   b) humanism  
   c) cognitive perspective  
   d) behaviorism  
   e) evolutionary psychology  
*Incorrect. This theory does not acknowledge free will.*  
*Correct. Humanist theory focuses on free will and self-actualization.*  
ANS: b, p. 14, F, LO=1.4, AP I.2, (1)

20. Jeff’s car broke down and smoke started rising from the engine. He felt lucky to have broken down while parked in the center of town during lunch when many people were outside and could help. However, 30 minutes have passed and despite the heavily populated area, nobody has offered assistance. This is an example of the  
   a) zeitgeist  
   b) behaviorist effect  
   c) bystander effect  
   d) self-serving prophecy  
   e) confirmation bias  
*Correct. This example would support the example because of the principle of diffusion of responsibility.*  
ANS: c, p. 15, A, LO=1.4, (1)
Psychological Professionals and Areas of Specialization

21. According to present research on psychologists, thirty-four percent are in the __________ subfield of psychology.
   a) Counseling
   Incorrect. This is the second largest subfield with thirteen percent.
   b) Industrial/Organizational
   c) Developmental
   d) Clinical
   Correct. According to the information in the book.
   e) School
   ANS: d, p. 18, F, LO=1.5, AP I.4, (2)

22. There are several subfields of psychology according to the present research. The three largest subfields of psychology are __________, __________, and __________.
   a) Clinical, Counseling, and Developmental
   Correct. These are the three largest.
   b) Cognitive, Clinical, and Developmental
   c) Industrial/Organizational, Counseling, and Clinical
   d) Cognitive, Counseling, and Clinical
   e) Social, Experimental, and School
   Incorrect. The present research shows that Clinical, Counseling, and Developmental are the three largest subfields.
   ANS: a, p. 18, F, LO=1.5, AP I.4, (2)

Psychology: The Science

23. Perceiving the question is the first step in a scientific investigation. This step is derived from which goal of psychology?
   a) describing
   Correct. The question comes from observing a situation and asking “What is happening?” This is a description.
   b) explaining
   Incorrect. Perceiving the question comes from an observation and description. Explaining comes after the experiment.
   c) predicting
   d) changing
   e) resolving
   ANS: a, p. 20, C, LO=1.6, (3)

24. Forming a hypothesis is the second step in a scientific investigation. This step is derived from which goal of psychology?
   a) describing
   Incorrect. The question comes from observing a situation and asking “What is happening?” This is a description.
   b) explaining
   Correct. Forming a hypothesis attempts to explain the question you are asking.
   c) predicting
   d) changing
   e) resolving
   ANS: b, p. 20, C, LO=1.6, (3)
25. Testing a hypothesis is the third step in a scientific investigation. This step is derived from which goal of psychology?
   a) describing
   Incorrect. The question comes from observing a situation and asking “What is happening?” This is a description.
   b) explaining
   Correct. Testing a hypothesis attempts to explain the question you are asking.
   c) predicting
   d) changing
   e) resolving
ANE: b, p. 20-21, C, LO=1.6, (3)

26. After reading about the possible causes of schizophrenia, a scientist thinks that a virus is the most likely cause. What term most accurately describes the scientist’s idea?
   a) hypothesis
   Correct. A hypothesis is an “educated guess” based on solid information.
   b) dependent variable
   c) extraneous variable
   d) experimental estimate
   Incorrect. Experimental estimate is not a valid term used in science.
   e) method question
ANE: a, p. 20-21, A, LO=1.6, (2)

27. Which of the following is NOT an empirical question?
   a) Will you get an A in this class?
   Incorrect. This is not empirical because it cannot be answered through observation, measurement, or experimentation.
   b) Is there life on Mars?
   c) Did the universe start with a big bang?
   Incorrect. This is empirical because it can be answered through observation, measurement, and experimentation.
   d) Would Martin Luther King, Jr. have been a good president?
   e) Has racial prejudice declined following the election of President Obama?
ANE: d, p. 22, C, LO=1.6, (2)

28. A(n) __________ is a measure of how strongly two variables are related to one another.
   a) independent variable
   Incorrect. The independent variable is the variable that the experimenter manipulates.
   b) dependent variable
   c) experimental effect
   d) correlation
   Correct. A correlation measures how strongly two variables are related.
   e) representative sample
ANE: d, p. 26, F, LO=1.9, AP II.1, (1)

29. Drinking orange juice is negatively correlated with the risk of cancer. Based on this information, which of the following statements is true?
   a) The more orange juice you drink, the higher your risk of cancer.
   Incorrect. When the two variables move up or down together, that is a positive correlation.
   b) The more orange juice you drink, the lower your risk of cancer.
   Correct. When one variable goes up (juice drinking) the other goes down (risk of cancer), that is a negative correlation.
   c) The less orange juice you drink, the lower your risk of cancer.
   d) Drinking orange juice causes people to be cancer free.
   e) Drinking orange juice has no effect on the risk of cancer.
ANE: b, p. 26-28, C, LO=1.9, AP II.7, (3)

30. A correlation coefficient shows that smoking and life expectancy are indeed related. As a result, a researcher could predict __________ if the direction of the relationship is known.
a) if a person smokes a lot of cigarettes, he or she will have less money monthly to buy gas
b) the person’s life expectancy will go up or down based on the number of cigarettes the person smokes daily
Correct. The directionality of the correlation coefficient can predict this relationship.
c) if a person smokes cigarettes, he or she will eventually develop lung cancer
d) a person’s lungs will repair themselves and he or she will live a longer life
Incorrect. The correlation mentioned did not include information about lungs.
e) a person who smokes will weigh less as a result of smoking
ANS: b, p. 26-28, C, LO=1.9, AP II.7, (2)

31. A researcher is investigating the effects of exercise on weight. What are the independent and dependent variables in this experiment?
   a) The dependent variable is weight; the independent variable is exercise.
Correct. The exercise is controlled by the experimenter and is, therefore, independent of anything the participants do, whereas the participants’ weight is expected to be dependent on the amount of exercise.
   b) The independent variable is calories consumed; the dependent variable is diet.
   c) The independent variable is weight; the dependent variable is calories consumed.
   d) The dependent variable is amount of exercise; the independent variable is calories consumed.
Incorrect. The exercise is controlled by the experimenter and is, therefore, the independent variable.
   e) The independent variable is exercise; the dependent variable is miles run in a week.
ANS: a, p. 29, A, LO=1.10, AP II.3, (2)

32. In a laboratory, smokers are asked to “drive” using a computerized driving simulator equipped with a stick shift and a gas pedal. The object is to maximize the distance covered by driving as fast as possible on a winding road while avoiding rear-end collisions. Some of the participants smoke a real cigarette immediately before climbing into the driver’s seat. Others smoke a fake cigarette without nicotine. You are interested in comparing how many collisions the two groups have. In this study, the cigarette without nicotine is __________.
   a) the control group
Correct. A control group gets either no treatment or treatment with no effect; in this case, experimenters are controlling for the possibility that the cigarette itself (not the nicotine) might cause people to get into collisions.
   b) the driving simulator
   c) the experimental group
Incorrect. The experimental group does get treatment that is expected to have an effect, whereas the control group gets either no treatment or treatment without effect.
   d) the no-control group
   e) experimental group
ANS: a, p. 29-30, A, LO=1.10, AP II.3, (2)