PSY 150—Common Exam

1. In a drug treatment study, participants given a pill containing no actual drug are receiving a/an
   a. commendation
   b. placebo
   c. citation
   d. reprimand

2. What did Sigmund Freud consider as the key to understanding behavior?
   a. sociocultural
   b. brain physiology
   c. the unconscious
   d. free will

3. Psychology is defined as the science of
   a. conscious and unconscious mental activity
   b. observable responses to the environment
   c. behavior and mental processes
   d. maladaptive and adaptive behaviors

4. Dr. Wiglesworth does research on the relationship between brain chemistry and the development of depression. Which psychological specialty does Dr. Wiglesworth’s research best represent?
   a. developmental psychology
   b. physiological/biological psychology
   c. clinical psychology
   d. experimental psychology

5. Which research method focuses on gathering detailed information about one individual?
   a. case study
   b. correlation
   c. experiment
   d. survey

6. All of the following are steps in the scientific method except
   a. observe a phenomenon.
   b. create a hypothesis.
   c. replicate your findings.
   d. keep your results to yourself until someone offers you money to report them.
7. A general principle or set of principles that attempts to explain how a set of separate facts are related to one another is called
   a. basic research
   b. a theory
   c. a hypothesis
   d. applied research

8. Which research method would be most appropriate for investigating the religious beliefs of Americans and their attitudes toward abortion?
   a. case study
   b. correlation
   c. experiment
   d. survey

9. Which of the following situations illustrates the placebo effect?
   a. taking an aspirin to get rid of a headache.
   b. receiving a vaccination to prevent the flu
   c. having a drink of nonalcoholic beer and behaving as though you are drunk
   d. having surgery to repair a defective heart valve

10. The specialist most likely to have a medical degree is a/an
    a. clinical psychologist
    b. industrial/Organizational psychologist
    c. developmental psychologist
    d. psychiatrist

**Biological Psychology**

11. The function of the dendrites is to
    a. release neurotransmitters into the synapse/synaptic cleft
    b. receive information from other neurons.
    c. coordinate the parasympathetic and sympathetic nervous systems.
    d. control pain

12. Clint has just played a long, bruising football game but feels little fatigue or discomfort. His lack of pain is most likely caused by the release of:
    a. curare.
    b. dopamine.
    c. endorphins.
    d. acetylcholine.
13. Which region of the brain stem most directly helps you to suddenly awaken from sleep when someone in a nearby room mentions your name?
   a. hypothalamus
   b. cerebellum
   c. reticular formation/reticular activating system
   d. amygdala

14. The occipital lobe is to _______ as the temporal lobe is to _______.
   a. seeing; hearing
   b. seeing; sensing touch
   c. sensing pleasure; sensing pain
   d. hearing; sensing movement

15. The central nervous system consists of
   a. sensory and motor
   b. the brain and spinal cord.
   c. sympathetic and parasympathetic branches.
   d. skeletal and autonomic subsystems.

16. What are the two divisions of the peripheral nervous system?
   a. somatic and autonomic
   b. autonomic and sympathetic
   c. parasympathetic and somatic
   d. sympathetic and parasympathetic

17. What are the two branches of the autonomic nervous system?
   a. afferent and efferent
   b. positive and negative
   c. central and peripheral
   d. sympathetic and parasympathetic

18. Information is carried from the central nervous system to the tissues by:
   a. interneurons.
   b. sensory neurons.
   c. motor neurons.
   d. the limbic system.

19. The cells that serve as the basic building blocks of the body's information processing system are called:
   a. neurons.
   b. neurotransmitters.
   c. genes.
   d. vesicles.
20. The right hemisphere of a human brain typically controls the ________ side of the body.
   a. right
   b. left
   c. front
   d. back

Learning

21. ________ is a relatively permanent change in behavior or the potential to make a response that occurs as the result of experience.
   a. perception
   b. learning
   c. cognition
   d. consciousness

22. If a ringing bell causes a dog to salivate because the bell has been regularly associated with food in the mouth, the unconditioned response (UCR or UR) is the
   a. ringing bell
   b. food in the mouth
   c. salivation to the food in the mouth
   d. salivation to the ringing bell

23. Which of the following illustrates an unconditioned stimulus?
   a. your favorite song
   b. a puff of air to your eye
   c. blinking when air is blown into your eye
   d. blinking when you hear your favorite song

24. Repeated presentations of the conditioned stimulus (CS) without the unconditioned stimulus (US) leads to
   a. extinction
   b. generalization
   c. faster conditioning
   d. slower conditioning

25. Dan fell from a tree when he was younger and now he is afraid of climbing anything more than three feet off the ground. What conditioning process is evident in Dan’s behavior?
   a. extinction
   b. discrimination
   c. generalization
   d. backward conditioned
26. Negative reinforcement is the same thing as punishment.
   a. true
   b. false

27. The process of reinforcing successively closer approximations to a desired behavior is called
   a. modeling
   b. generalization
   c. spontaneous
   d. shaping

28. The more often Luke is scolded following a temper tantrum the more frequently he loses his temper. In this case, the scolding serves as a _________ for Luke’s temper tantrums.
   a. positive reinforcer
   b. negative reinforcer
   c. positive punisher
   d. negative punisher

29. What is an event or stimulus that makes the behavior it follows less likely to occur in the future?
   a. punisher
   b. reinforcer
   c. marker
   d. conditioned response

30. Which type of learning might account for why Johnny seems to imitate the behavior of characters he sees on Saturday morning cartoons.
   a. classical conditioning
   b. aversive learning
   c. operant conditioning
   d. social learning/modeling

Abnormal

31. According to the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which of the following would not be considered a mental disorder?
   a. social phobia
   b. antisocial personality disorder
   c. schizophrenia
   d. homosexuality
32. The inability to distinguish fantasy from reality refers to
   a. obsession
   b. bipolar
   c. anxiety
   d. psychosis

33. Alternating periods of depression and mania or elation is characteristic of
   a. depression
   b. bipolar disorder
   c. obsessive compulsive disorder
   d. dissociative identity disorder

34. You see a sign on campus for a lecture on the “common cold of psychological disorders.” You ask your roommate if she would accompany you to hear a lecture on the topic of
   a. bipolar disorder
   b. procrastination
   c. depression
   d. speech phobia

35. What is the key element of the disorder, schizophrenia?
   a. brain splinters
   b. split personalities
   c. splintered family relationships
   d. a split from reality

36. During an interview, a patient says he has frequently seen a hand come out of the bathroom sink to grab a bar of soap. The psychologist who is conducting the interview most likely writes that the patient presents evidence of
   a. anxiety
   b. hallucinations
   c. delusions
   d. depression

37. Which of the following is characterized by persistent, irrational fear of a specific object or situation?
   a. phobia
   b. catatonia
   c. histrionic personality disorder
   d. schizophrenia
38. Sam is arrogant and expects everyone to give him special treatment. He brags about how successful he is and is constantly trying to manipulate other people. What personality disorder is Sam likely suffering from?
   a. Narcissistic personality disorder
   b. Avoidant personality disorder
   c. Paranoid personality disorder
   d. Schizoid personality disorder

39. Eyore, an 18-year-old college freshman, has missed almost all his classes during the past month. He spends most of his time in bed, frequently not even bothering to get dressed or eat meals. He thinks his whole life has been a failure and blames himself for being a social misfit. Eyore is most likely suffering from:
   a. conversion disorder.
   b. an antisocial personality disorder.
   c. major depression.
   d. hypochondriasis.

40. Niles Crane worries constantly that his teeth may be dirty so he brushes his teeth 18 times a day. Each time, he uses exactly 83 strokes up and 83 strokes down. After he eats, he must brush twice with two different brands of toothpaste. Niles suffers from a(n) _______ disorder.
   a. somatoform
   b. obsessive-compulsive
   c. phobic
   d. generalized anxiety

Personality

41. Jenna is constantly talkative, impulsive, and generous. Each of these characteristics most clearly represents a:
   a. defense mechanism
   b. trait
   c. reaction formation
   d. personality type

42. Freud believed that an individual’s responses to a projective test reflected
   a. maladaptive neurons
   b. unconscious aspects of personality
   c. current events
   d. daydreaming patterns
43. Which of the following was not mentioned as one of Freud’s theory of personality?
   a. id
   b. ego
   c. self-actualization
   d. superego

44. Freud argued that humans are born with a/an ________ that is fueled by sex and aggression.
   a. ego
   b. id
   c. superego
   d. psyche

45. Alice was asked by her psychotherapist to describe what she saw in 10 ambiguous inkblots. Alice was most likely responding to the ________ test.
   a. California Achievement Test (CAT)
   b. Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)
   c. Rorschach Test/Inkblot
   d. Minnesota Multiphasic personality Inventory (MMPI-2)

46. According to Maslow, the psychological need that arises after all other needs have been met is the need for:
   a. unconditional positive regard.
   b. self-esteem.
   c. personal control.
   d. self-actualization.

47. Personality is defined as:
   a. the set of personal biases, stereotypes and prejudices
   b. the relatively unique and enduring pattern of thinking, feeling and behaving
   c. a completely predictable set of responses to environmental stimuli
   d. an unpredictable set of responses to environmental stimuli

48. Which of the following theorists would likely argue that personality is nothing more than habits that have been reinforced through past experiences?
   a. Freudian/psychoanalytic
   b. Behavioral
   c. Biological
   d. Humanistic

49. Which of the following is most true of personality?
   a. 100% of your personality is inherited
   b. 100% of your personality is learned
   c. some of your personality is inherited and some is learned
   d. personality is neither inherited or learned
50. Which of the following is not one of Freud’s stages of psychosexual development?
   a. oral
   b. anal
   c. phallic
   d. formal operations