

Practice Exam 2: Answer Key

Unit Breakdown for Multiple-Choice Questions:

Unit 1 (2-4%) Psychology's History & Approaches: 37, 48, 85 (3%)
Unit 2 (8-10%) Research Methods: 4, 10, 11, 36, 47, 62, 66, 76, 86 (9%)
Unit 3 (8-10%) Biological Bases of Behavior: 8, 9, 23, 49, 61, 75, 88, 98, 100 (9%)
Unit 4 (6-9%) Sensation & Perception: 5, 18, 24, 38, 53, 67, 87 (7%)
Unit 5 (2-4%) States of Consciousness: 17, 33, 52 (3%)
Unit 6 (7-9%) Learning: 16, 25, 46, 50, 63, 89, 96, 97 (8%)
Unit 7 (8-10%) Cognition: 6, 7, 19, 27, 28, 39, 54, 64, 84, 95 (10%)
Unit 8 (6-8%) Motivation, Emotion, and Stress: 3, 26, 45, 51, 72, 82 (6%)
Unit 9 (7-9%) Developmental Psychology: 2, 20, 29, 40, 55, 65, 77, 90, 99 (9%)
Unit 10 (5-7%) Personality: 14, 30, 73, 74, 83, 91 (6%)
Unit 11 (5-7%) Testing & Individual Differences: 15, 31, 44, 60, 71, 81, 92 (7%)
Unit 12 (7-9%) Abnormal Behavior: 12, 21, 34, 41, 56, 69, 78, 94 (8%)
Unit 13 (5-7%) Treatment of Abnormal Behavior: 13, 35, 42, 57, 68, 79 (6%)
Unit 14 (8-10%) Social Psychology: 1, 22, 32, 43, 58, 59, 70, 80, 93 (9%)

Multiple Choice

1. (B) Social facilitation suggests that the presence of others increases performance on tasks that are either well-practiced or for which we have a particular talent. The presence of others may, however, decrease performance on a task that we are just learning or for which we possess only moderate or low skill.
2. (E) Gender identity occurs when children begin to understand the characteristics that are associated with boys or girls and place themselves (and others) into a category. These categories may be fluid and can change over time, such as girls having long hair or wearing pink.
3. (C) Extrinsic motivation occurs when an external reinforcer, such as money for grades encourages an individual to be motivated towards a goal.
4. (B) The wider the range of scores, the higher the standard deviation which identifies the average distance from the mean for a set of scores. The range of B is 39, the highest of all of the score sets. Set C would have the smallest standard deviation because the range is only 4. Factors such as how high or low the numbers are do not play a role in determining standard deviation.
5. (B) Proximity is a Gestalt principle by which we group together objects that are close to one another. By grouping people in the lunchroom who are seating near one another, Nathan is demonstrating proximity.
6. (B) The availability heuristic proposes that people make decisions based on how readily information appears in our memory or how quickly it “pops into our mind”. Since plane crashes make the news more often than car crashes that information comes more readily to mind.
7. (A) A prototype is our “best example” or mental image of a larger category. For most people, a car is a better representation of a vehicle than a boat or a truck.
8. (D) The frontal lobe is mainly responsible for planning, personality and higher-order thinking skills, while the limbic system controls emotional responses. The severing of communication between these two areas would decrease one’s emotional regulation.

9. (A) The somatosensory cortex is located at the front of the parietal lobe.
10. (B) The independent variable is the component of an experiment or quasi-experiment manipulated by the researcher to see its effects. In this study, the teacher manipulates the levels of lighting in the room (independent variable) and then measures the exam scores (dependent variable).
11. (D) The control group is the group that is not exposed to the independent variable. The students in the dimly lit room are the experimental group; those who study under the same conditions in which they normally study are the control group.
12. (E) PTSD is characterized by flashbacks and nightmares of vivid, traumatic events from the past.
13. (C) Systematic desensitization uses classical conditioning techniques to slowly expose the person to an anxiety producing situation until it no longer elicits anxiety and they come to realize that they are not in any danger.
14. (A) In the three levels of Freud's unconscious, the id is the impulsive element that works based on the pleasure principle. The superego acts on the morality principle and encourages people to act with their conscience. The ego operates on the reality principle and gets what the id wants in a way that also satisfies the superego.
15. (E) In a normally distributed population, 68% of the scores fall within one deviation, 95% of scores within 2 standard deviations, and 99.7% within three standard deviations from the mean.
16. (E) A variable-ratio schedule requires the person to actively do something before the reinforcement takes place. In this case, it is variable because the gambler never knows which play will result in a win and they must engage in the activity of gambling in order to have the possibility of winning.
17. (B) Sleep spindles, short bursts of electrical activity interspersed with a general slowing of brain waves, are characteristic of NREM-2. NREM-3 shows delta waves, and alpha waves are present in the awake/relaxed state before we fall asleep.
18. (D) Retinal disparity is the only binocular cue listed. Retinal disparity involves the different image portrayed to each eye. When images are closer the difference between each eye is greater, when images are further away, retinal disparity decreases. The other choices are monocular and only require one eye to detect depth.
19. (D) Functional fixedness is a barrier to problem solving. It occurs when we have the tools to solve a problem, but we are stuck seeing that tool for its intended use and cannot recognize that it has other potential uses as well. Paperclips are typically used to clip papers together, but they could also be a zipper pull.
20. (D) A child in the preoperational stage has not mastered conservation and would be unable to tell that the amount of pizza is the same, even if it has been cut into a different number of slices. A child in the preconventional stage of morality makes decisions based on rewards or punishments.
21. (C) Antisocial personality disorder is characterized by engagement in high risk activities, manipulation of others, with lack of remorse for the things they have done which may have caused others pain or suffering.

22. (D) Group polarization occurs when members of a group become even stronger or more extreme in their beliefs after discussion. Groupthink occurs in a decision-making situation when we keep our opinions to ourselves to maintain group harmony.

23. (E) The pituitary gland, influenced by the hypothalamus, directs the other glands of the body to release hormones into the bloodstream. It also produces the growth hormone.

24. (C) Loud noises damage the hair cells located on the basilar membrane within the cochlea. Damage to the ossicles would result in conductive hearing loss.

25. (D) B.F. Skinner is the man most connected with operant conditioning and training animals such as rats and pigeons by using reinforcement. The belief that reinforcement will lead to increased behavior and punishment would lead to a decrease in behavior is important to understand the behaviorist approach to psychology.

26. (D) Maslow's hierarchy proposes that the most basic needs, physiological, are at the base of the hierarchy. Once those needs are met, the person can work on the remaining levels: safety, belonging and esteem with self-actualization (transcendence) at the top.

27. (B) Semantics is understanding the meaning; syntax is putting the words in the correct order. It is clear that Kevin ate the banana, but banana should come after "eated" in the sentence.

28. (C) Automatic processing happens outside of our conscious awareness. We don't pay attention to what we eat, yet we are processing and remembering that information without making a conscious effort to do so.

29. (A) The social clock is when a given culture or society determines we are "supposed to" do something. Being only 19, Carla and her boyfriend are much younger than the "accepted" age to get married.

30. (E) The Thematic Apperception Test (TAT) is a type of projective test in which clients describe the events surrounding a series of ambiguous pictures. The goals of the test is that clients will project their unconscious thoughts onto the pictures they are describing. The Rorschach test is also a projective test, but requires that clients identify images from ambiguous inkblots.

31. (B) The Wechsler Test, which has versions for adults (WAIS) and children (WISC) are the most commonly administered intelligence tests. The Stanford-Binet, which was the earliest modern intelligence test in the USA, is still given, but to far fewer people than the Wechsler scales.

32. (A) Prejudice is an negative attitude about a group of people; discrimination is an action based on the prejudice attitude.

33. (A) The symptoms given are descriptive of a stimulant. Methamphetamine is the only listed drug that fits into the stimulant category. Alcohol and heroin are depressants; LSD and marijuana are hallucinogens.

34. (A) Obsessions are repetitive thoughts; compulsions are repetitive actions.

35. (A) Rational-emotive behavior therapy is an aggressive, confrontational type of cognitive therapy that seeks to redirect irrational thoughts and behaviors by challenging the individual to defend these irrational beliefs.

36. (C) In a positive correlation that trend of the data moves from the bottom left to the right; in a negative correlation, it moves from the top left to the bottom right. A positive correlation indicates that two variables move in the same direction as one another. A negative correlation indicates that two variables move inversely to one another. The more perfect the correlation (closer to 1.00), the straighter the line through the points. In the given plot, the trend is down to the right but not in a straight line. This indicates a moderate negative correlation.

37. (E) Wilhelm Wundt is the man who opened the first psychology lab in Leipzig, Germany 1879. He used the process of introspection to attempt to understand participants conscious experiences.

38. (E) Because Min could not tell that the TV had gotten any louder the change was below his difference threshold. The absolute threshold is when we can initially tell that a stimulus is present; the difference threshold is when we can tell that the initial level has changed (in this case that the television is louder than it was before).

39. (A) Ebbinghaus' forgetting curve tells us that there is a leveling off in the amount of knowledge that is lost after a rapid initial decline.

40. (B) A cross-sectional study brings in people of various ages (genders, ethnicity, etc) at the same time and tests them once. A longitudinal study follows people for a longer period of time and measures changes in them at various ages over time.

41. (A) Molley has anorexia nervosa, which is most commonly marked by significant weight loss and is often accompanied by an increased interest in food.

42. (E) Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) has been shown to be effective for severe depression that does not respond to other types of therapy. It is only used after other methods, such as drugs (often SSRIs), have proved unsuccessful or in cases where the patient may be in immediate danger due to the severity of their depression.

43. (E) The fundamental attribution error says that when analyzing the behavior of someone else we tend to overestimate the personal/dispositional factors involved and underestimate the situational factors. When Emily assumes the person is selfish, she is assuming something negative about the other woman in line, without taking into consideration situational factors.

44. (C) Validity is when an assessment measures what it claims to measure. Reliability is when a test yields consistent results. The test Han is taking may be reliable (he might fail it each time), but it is invalid because there are physics questions on what should be an exam exclusively about chemistry.

45. (D) The ventromedial hypothalamus reduces hunger while the lateral hypothalamus makes us hungry. Remember the mnemonics "Large Hunger" or "Lat is Fat" for Lateral Hypothalamus and "Very Minute Hunger" for Ventromedial Hypothalamus.

46. (B) Learned helplessness occurs when we try and fail at something so many times that we eventually give up trying. Even if we would be successful, we do not try because our track record of failure causes us to believe that we have no control over our environment.

47. (A) The mode is the most frequently occurring score in a distribution. In this case there are more 4s than any other number in the distribution.

48. (B) The nature vs. nurture debate looks at the interacting roles of genes and environment. Today, most psychologists agree that these factors each play a role, rather than being shaped exclusively by one's genes or the environment.

49. (C) Nedra's corpus callosum has been severed, making the two halves of her brain unable to communicate with each other. Images in her left visual field, the dog, will go to her right hemisphere and images in her right visual field, the rabbit, will go to her left hemisphere. Each hand is controlled by the opposite side of the body, so choices A and B will not be possible. Since the left hemisphere controls language, Nedra will be able to say that she saw a rabbit because that image will be in her left hemisphere.

50. (A) Negative reinforcement takes away something undesirable (such as the seatbelt noise). Because that action (putting on the seatbelt) was successful at removing the aversive stimulus (loud noise) he will repeat it more often.

51. (A) Homeostasis is the constant internal state that our body wishes to maintain. It can be seen in hunger and body temperature.

52. (C) Narcolepsy is the sleep disorder where the body rapidly falls into a state of REM sleep, often during a period of heightened sympathetic nervous system activity.

53. (D) The vestibular and kinesthetic senses are often confused. The vestibular sense involves our sense of balance while the sense of kinesthesia knows the location of our body parts.

54. (E) Proactive interference is when we are unable to remember something new, like our science teacher's name, because the older information, the name of last year's science teacher, is in the way. Retroactive interference would happen if we could not remember the old information because we remember only the new information.

55. (C) Erikson developed an eight-stage theory of psychosocial development. During the second stage of autonomy versus shame and doubt, the child tries to do some things independent of his/her parents, such as feeding or dressing themselves.

56. (D) Multiple personalities are characteristic of dissociative identity disorder (DID) but are not one of the symptoms of schizophrenia, which is a separate disease characterized by the loss of touch with reality.

57. (B) The psychoanalytic method of therapy involves the person sharing as much information as possible with the therapist so that the therapist can assess the symbolism of the person's unconscious thoughts

58. (C) Deindividuation is often seen in mob behavior when people act in a way that they would not normally because they are part of a larger group and there is less of a chance that they will be identified and personally connected with the actions. Group polarization happens when people who already agree on something become even stronger in their beliefs after discussing those beliefs. Groupthink happens in a decision-making situation when we keep our opinions to ourselves to maintain group harmony, which often leads to poor decisions.

59. (D) The hotel is using conformity in this situation. They want their guests to think that all of the other guests reuse their towels and so they should as well. The hope is that they will want to go along with the group, even though there is no authority figure asking them to reuse their towels as would be the case in obedience.

60. (B) Sternberg argued that there are 3 components to intelligence. Gardner's theory is 8 intelligences and Spearman proposed the theory of *g* factor which he states underlies all intelligence.

61. (A) The sympathetic nervous system arouses us in times of stress to prepare us for flight or fight. The parasympathetic nervous system slows us down/returns us to normal after the danger has passed

62. (E) A case study investigates one person or a small group who have a unique characteristic. These individuals are in depth studies using a variety of research methods. The danger is that such a small group may not represent the larger population.

63. (D) Albert Bandura is known for his work on observational learning/modeling. The fact that Claire imitates her brother's behavior demonstrates this idea.

64. (C) Elizabeth Loftus is known for her work on the misinformation effect and potential issues of reliability and validity with eyewitness testimony. The framing effect and information by others, even accidentally after the fact can interfere with the original memories.

65. (E) Low levels of acetylcholine (Ach) have been linked to Alzheimer's disease. A reduction in serotonin is related to symptoms of depression and a reduction in dopamine is linked to Parkinson's disease.

66. (C) Random assignment is used to ensure that the experimental and control groups in an experiment/quasi-experiment are similar enough to be able to compare to one another.

67. (B) The cones are used to detect color. Rods work in dim light. The lens would help focus on objects close to or far away. Facial recognition would happen in the brain (right temporal lobe).

68. (E) SSRI's (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) work by keeping more serotonin in the synapse, preventing reuptake, so that more of the neurotransmitter is available to activate the postsynaptic neuron.

69. (B) A conversion disorder is one in which a physical symptom, such as blindness, has a psychological cause, often a traumatic event.

70. (A) Obedience is following orders. Conformity is acting as others are without any direct instruction to do so.

71. (C) IQ scores are more or less stable. Having no other information, the best answer is the one closest to the known score earlier in life.

72. (B) The stages of the GAS are alarm, resistance and exhaustion. It is in the middle stage, resistance, where we attempt to fight off the stressor for as long as possible, before breaking down in the exhaustion phase.

73. (C) Reciprocal determinism is the interaction of one's environment, cognitive factors, and past experiences which all work together to influence behavior.

74. (D) Repression is the defense mechanism where anxiety producing information is pushed out of our conscious awareness. The fact that she does not remember the details of dating him or immediately remember his name shows repression, according to Freud's theory.

75. (C) Broca's area is located in the left frontal lobe and is associated with speech production.
76. (D) Even if there is a perfect correlation between two variables it is important to remember that correlation does not prove causation. The only research method that can prove causation is an experiment because of the manipulation of the independent variable.
77. (D) Teratogens are substances that can cross the placenta and potentially harm a developing baby. Alcohol is the most commonly thought of teratogen, but any substance that harms the developing baby is a teratogen.
78. (C) Panic disorder is characterized by a feeling greater than being "continually tense" and that is more intermittent than generalized anxiety disorder. Generalized anxiety disorder is also not related to any specific cause, feeling anxious and worried without knowing the cause.
79. (D) Many schizophrenic drugs (neuroleptics/antipsychotics) work to reduce the amount of dopamine. One side effect of this is the Parkinson's like tremors of tardive dyskinesia in which the facial muscles are in constant movement.
80. (C) The self-fulfilling prophecy occurs when either our beliefs about ourselves or others beliefs about us (Kevin's beliefs about Jenny) impact our behavior in which we often live up (or down) to those beliefs..
81. (A) Aptitude tests, like the SAT®, attempt to predict a future behavior. Achievement tests, like the AP® exams, measure what we already know.
82. (E) The James-Lange Theory says that our experience of emotion is an awareness of the physiological response to an emotion-arousing situation.
83. (B) Someone who is conscientious will pay attention to details and follow through on tasks.
84. (B) Chomsky's theory of language development believes that we are born with the ability to learn language under the proper conditions; this is the idea of a language acquisition device. Skinner argued that we develop language because we imitate those around us and are rewarded to the correct use of language. Chomsky would have pointed to the unique things kids say, things they did not hear or were not rewarded for in the past, and use that to support his theory.
85. (D) Human factors is the branch of psychology that works to make products more intuitive and convenient for people to use and combines the fields of engineering and psychology.
86. (A) The APA does not specify that participants need to be paid for taking part in research. If the researcher does decide to offer compensation then it must be given, but there is no ethical rule that says all researchers must compensate participants.
87. (C) Relative height is a monocular cue for depth perception in which objects that appear low on a canvas or two-dimensional surface appear to be close to the foreground and those higher up appear to be further away.
88. (B) While decreased amounts of dopamine are linked to Parkinson's disease, increased levels of it are linked to schizophrenia.

89. (D) The UR is the part of a classical conditioning situation that is an unlearned, automatic reaction that will happen the first time one is exposed to an object or event. In the Watson study, “little Albert’s” fear (the UR) is a natural reaction to a loud noise (the US).

90. (A) Adolescents are tasked in Erikson’s theory with developing their identity, or sense of self. If they fail to achieve a unique identity then they may experience role confusion. People sometimes confuse identity and intimacy because they think young adulthood (where intimacy develops) is a synonym for adolescence.

91. (C) When someone has unconditional positive regard for another they accept them, no matter what the person says or believes. Rogers believed that this was the key to successful therapy by forming that strong bond between client and therapist.

92. (E) Heritability looks at variation in a trait within a group that is attributed to genetic factors. The estimates are that it is about 50% for intelligence. Heritability does not say anything about a person, but only makes sense when thinking about the characteristics of a group.

93. (B) Aggression is a purposeful action intended to hurt or destroy someone else.

94. (D) Bipolar disorder occurs when a person experiences extreme mood swings and fluctuates between periods of depression and mania and “normal” behavior.

95. (D) Implicit memories are for skills which no longer take much effort to recall, how to ride a bike is a skill that for most people was learned very early in life and no longer takes much conscious thought or concentrations to complete. All of the other choices are facts which are explicit memories.

96. (C) The US is something that will automatically cause a response without any learning. Having a stomach bug will automatically lead to sickness, as no learning is required.

97. (B) Stimulus generalization occurs something similar to the CS makes us react in the same way as the CS. Amelia reacts in the same way to the fried chicken as she does to the General Gau’s chicken, making it an example of generalization.

98. (C) The PET scan measures the use of glucose in the brain which is used to locate brain function, unlike CT and MRI scans which are used to identify brain structures.

99. (B) Authoritarian parents set a series of rigid rules and expect obedience to these rules. Authoritative parents set rules, but bring the children in on rule setting and enforcement.

100. (D) Dendrites receive information from other neurons and carry the information to the neuron.

Free Response Questions

General Considerations

- If the response is not presented in order, students must clearly indicate to which part of the question they are responding.
- All responses must be written in complete sentences.
- A correct definition alone cannot score but may contribute to a correct application. Students must establish a connection to the prompt for each point.
- Students will not be penalized for misinformation unless it directly contradicts correct information.
- If a student provides an incorrect definition but a correct application the incorrect definition may be dismissed as misinformation because the question asks the student to apply the terms.
- Rubric examples provided for each point are not to be considered exhaustive.
- Students must provide a synonym or explanation to express the meaning of a term and cannot use the term itself to explain the term.

Free-Response Question 1

Responses must be presented in the context of Dr. Weber's study. Simply discussing or defining the terms without applying them to the context of the question will not earn points.

Part A:

Point 1: Random Assignment. Dr. Weber does not use random assignment in his study. Students should have randomly been chosen from each of the two chosen classrooms to be placed in either the experimental or control group. Do not confuse random assignment for random sampling. Random sampling involves selecting the sample from the population and assignment relates to placing participants into either the control or experimental condition(s).

Point 2: Operational Definition of the Dependent Variable. Dr. Weber notes that violent behaviors are the DV in this study, but "violent behaviors" is vague term. Dr. Weber should have mentioned a more specific behavior and/or action to look for on the playground. Perhaps Dr. Weber will count the number of times a child strikes or pushes another child.

Point 3: Double-blind study. Dr. Weber does not use the double-blind procedure, where both the research participants and the research are ignorant about whether the research participants are in the treatment or placebo group. This may lead to either participant or experimenter bias. Dr. Weber also told the students of the objectives of his study, which may cause them to act differently on the playground because they know they are being watched.

Points 4 (identifying the flaw) and 5 (correcting the flaw): Dr. Weber's study could violate several ethical principles. Only one identification PLUS a correction for the problem needs to be made to earn these points.

1) There is no informed consent.

Dr. Weber should ask the parents of the students for permission because as minors the students cannot technically give their consent to participate in the study.

2) It is possible that showing R-rated movies to young children could harm them psychologically. Even with parental approval, and Internal Review Board is not likely to allow this to be shown, we also do not know specifically what is in the "violent videos".

Possible corrections may be doing the study with older children or showing slightly less violent programming that is not R-rated.

3) There is no mention of debriefing in the study.

Dr. Weber should explain to the students and/or their parents what he discovered in the study when he is finished. He should also offer to share the results with participants and their parents once the study is complete.

Point 6: Confounding Variables. Other factors, besides the type of TV watched might make students violent. For example, Dr. Weber is unaware of the student's levels of violence before the study began. Some students may come from violent households or be allowed to either watch violent television shows or play violent video games at home.

Point 7: Bandura would disagree with the findings of Dr. Weber. Bandura's research demonstrated that children will imitate violent/aggressive behavior that they have seen modeled by adults or others in their environment.

Free Response Questions

General Considerations

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- All responses must be written in complete sentences.
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- Students must provide a synonym or explanation to express the meaning of a term and cannot use the term itself to explain the term.

Free-Response Question 2

Responses must relate their examples to Tina and her attempt at winning the election. Simply discussing or defining the terms without applying them to the context of the question will not earn the points.

Part A:

Point 1: Mere Exposure Effect. The more we are exposed to something, the more we like it. Tina's posters and cupcakes will expose the students to her name and make them more likely to vote for her because they have seen her name all over the school during the election.

Point 2: Explicit Memory. This is the memory that can be consciously recalled, either in personal events or general knowledge. Students will remember something specific that Tina said or did (in this case, they will most likely remember her promise of getting them a day off from school), and that may cause them to vote for her, which may result in her winning the election.

Point 3: Selective Attention. Selective attention is the focusing of your awareness on a particular stimulus while not attending to other stimuli. If Tina had her friends make funny noises during the other candidate's speeches, the students may be distracted and listen to the funny noises, thus leaving them unable to focus on her opponent's speeches. This may allow them to only remember Tina's speech and help her win the election.

Point 4: Reciprocity. Reciprocity involves an individual returning a favor or benefit(s) that someone else has previously provided. Because Tina brought cupcakes for all of her classmates on the day of the election, they may feel like "they owe her" and vote for her to "pay her back". This may result in Tina winning the election.

Part B:

Point 5: Group Polarization. This is the enhancement of a group's prevailing attitude through discussion within the group. If Tina is not very popular and the other kids talk about this throughout her campaign, they will be even more convinced of how unpopular she is and what a bad president she would be if elected. This would cause them not to vote for her and she will lose the election.

Point 6: Introversion. If Tina is not an outgoing person she will find it difficult to spend the time campaigning with various groups of people that she may not know very well. Students may mention that Tina will feel a lessening in her energy levels as she keeps working with people. (You will not earn the point by simply mentioning that Tina does not go out or being around people.) This may result in Tina meeting fewer of her classmates than other candidates and she may lose the election.

Point 7: Discrimination. Discrimination is the different treatment of members of a given group based on their membership in that group. If Tina was a member of the cheerleading team and others in her class believed that cheerleaders were not smart enough to be the students council president, they may not vote for her (discrimination) and she would lose the election.