

GRE Psychology Practice Test

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1 Neurons

C - this is clearly dependent on the presence of receptors on the postsynaptic neuron that have an affinity for that particular neurotransmitter. If a presynaptic neuron only releases GABA, then it can't cause an effect on a postsynaptic neuron with no GABA receptors.

2 Projection Tests

E - a projection test is a test designed to examine the personality of someone by exposing them to ambiguous stimuli. Classic examples of projection tests include the Rorschach test and the word-association test. Typically these tests are criticised for being subjective from a clinical perspective. I would note that answers B,C and D are all positive adjectives that are good to see in a psychological test, so those can't be the answer.

3 Grouping

D - the grouping of a small pieces of information into larger memorable groups is called chunking. In this case, you are taking each individual letter and organising them into groups that are more memorable (as they relate to known letter combinations - everyone has heard of a TV or JFK!). This can be done with numbers as well.

4 Peripheral Route of Persuasion

D - in persuasion, the central route is where a person is persuaded by the context of a message. The peripheral route is an alternative route based on something else. For example, if I were to convince you to give up eating cake, the central route of persuasion would involve you listening to the scientific studies I cite linking added sugars to obesity and early death. The peripheral route would involve me pointing to pictures of criminals eating cake (i.e: using emotions rather than facts). The classic example of these methods is advertising, e.g:

drug commercials feature scientific studies, but also images of happy families, celebrities, etc.

5 Linguistics

B - you are probably already familiar with this sentence - enough to know that it is syntactically correct. There is also only one syntax - there is no other arrangement of these exact words that makes a correct sentence by the rules of the English language. The deep structure of a sentence is the abstract meaning that the set of words takes - the ideas and concepts conveyed, while the surface structure is the words used to convey these ideas. If I want to convey that I have a desire to eat pumpkin pie (deep structure), I use the words 'I want pumpkin pie' (surface structure) to convey this. Of course, the surface structure is limited in many ways - how much pumpkin pie I would like is a part of the deep structure but isn't conveyed in the surface structure. Deep structure is what you wish to express and surface structure how you express it. From this, it is obvious that there is only one surface structure - the words provided. However, there could be more than one deep structure. For example, this statement could mean that the dishwasher is on, or that the dishwasher is moving (on giant legs).

6 Separation Anxiety

A - to begin, note that the DSM-5 is referenced here. Make sure you are up-to-date on any major changes if you studied the DSM-4 in your courses. In separation anxiety, there is an overwhelming fear of losing the people close to them (parents, partners, etc). This results in an excessive fear of safety to these attachment figures.

7 Hippocampus

C - Procedural memory is a part of long-term memory that involves 'doing things' (e.g: riding a bike), while declarative memory is the long-term memory of facts and events. Here, the ability to do the problem with improved performance indicates that procedural memory is present, while declarative memory clearly is not. Thus damage to the hippocampus affects declarative memory but not procedural memory.

8 Neurotransmitters

D - endorphins act to reduce pain and stress. They are opioid proteins - and thus very similar to opiates. They are often released during exercise, sex, listening to music, etc. Naloxone is a medication used to prevent opioid overdose - since endorphins are chemically similar, this explains why naloxone also blocks them.

9 Stress

A - prolonged stress tends to weaken the immune system. This is the opposite of answers D and E, which would strengthen it.

10 Parkinson's Disease

E - the substantia nigra contains many dopamine-related neurons, being responsible for reward. Knowing that Parkinson's disease is characterised by high levels of dopamine is a clue that this is the correct answer.

11 Object Concept

E - after 1-2 months, an infant is able to focus on objects. At six months, an infant can track objects and understands that a coffee mug moved from one end of the table to the other is the same coffee cup. In other words, the infant realises that an object can move continuously. Additionally, the infant knows that objects cannot occupy the same space, so the answer is E.

12 Reliability

C - this is an example of alternative forms, where someone is given two different versions of the same test at different times. The scores are then compared to see if it is a reliable form of testing. Be sure not to confuse this with test-retest reliability, which is where you give the same test twice to the same people at different times to see if the scores are the same. In this case the test is similar, not the same!

13 Experiment - Music

A - a simple graph reading question. Note that 100% of people got this question right!

14 Experiment - Music

E - the statement that a type of music changes the mood implies a difference from before the music was played. If this wasn't done, that claim is invalid - maybe all the women who listened to opera had a mood of 9 before, and it dropped to 6 upon hearing the opera.

15 Experiment - Music

B - the fact that the two pieces were sung by the different gender makes it impossible to know if it is the genre of the music or the gender of the singer causing the response.

16 Social Frameworks

B - this is individualism, everyone is for themselves. Children are also under care because they are not skilled enough to look after themselves as individuals yet.

17 Stimulus

A - this is overshadowing, where one stimulus produces a stronger response than the other because it is more relevant. In this case, because the loud noise is more prominent than a subtle smell, it is the noise which overshadows the smell.

18 Stress

C - the ideas expressed here form part of Horney's ten neurotic needs.

19 Speech

C - Categorical perception is where items that range along a continuum are perceived as being either more or less similar to each other than they really are because of how they are categorised. For example, in speech, humans categorise the /b/ and the /p/ phonemes into one group, meaning that a sound inbetween those phonemes will be perceived as one of those phonemes.

20 Infants

D - these categories refer to temperament, the innate personality of babies. Easy children are generally happy and adjust easily to new situations. Slow-to-warm children can have some difficulty adjusting to new situations. Difficult children have difficulty adjusting to new situations, and often express negative moods very intensely.

21 Ageing and Cognition

D - Semantic memory is the recall of general facts (e.g: Sigmund Freud was a psychologist). This type of memory is sometimes referred to as being acquired over a lifetime, which hints that it declines the least in late life.

22 Neurons

B - rapid stimulation of a neuron causes temporal summation - the addition of a stimulus over a period of time. Spatial summation would involve multiple neurons firing at the same time.

23 Developmental Patterns

B - ASD often sees poor communication skills due to a difficulty in processing emotions. Additionally, 'stimming' is the term to refer to the repetitive motions (like fidgeting) seen in conditions like ASD.

24 Information Share

D - fairly self-evident, self-disclosure is where one discloses information about oneself.

25 Aggression

D - relational aggression is harm is caused by damaging someone's relationships or social status. It is predominately observed in girls, and may include exclusion or gossiping.

26 Linguistics

C - in this phrase, the speaker has incorrectly applied a general grammatical rule about adding the suffix -ed to form the past tense. This is an example of overregulation - where language rules are applied too generally.

27 Visual Pathway

E - noting that ventral refers to the front of an organism, the ventral stream is the visual pathway (from the brain to the front of the body). Dorsal refers to the back of an organism, and the dorsal stream is involved with the location of objects (the "where" stream).

28 Psychosocial Development

B - Erikson developed eight stages of psychosocial development that an individual must go through to be a healthy person.

29 Cognitive Functioning

C - Piaget came up with four stages of development with different goals. First, from birth to 18-24 months, there is the sensorimotor stage with the goal of object permanence. Then from 2-7 years comes the preoperational stage with the goal of symbolic thought. Next from 7-11 years is concrete operational with the goal of operational thought. Finally, from adolescence to adulthood comes the formal operational stage with the goal of abstract conceptual thought. The nature of abstract thought here indicates that this is the formal operational stage.

30 Deception

A - the development of lying is probably due to a change in the knowledge of mental representations - specifically the mental imagery of things that are not actually present to the senses. For example, a child can picture seeing an elephant walking around London, and this allows him to lie about seeing one.

31 Statistics

B - standard deviation is a measure of the variance. (variance = sd^2).

32 REM

C - REM is the stage of sleep associated with dreams.

33 Research Design

D - this is a cross-sectional study - an observational study that analyzes data at a specific point in time from a population. In this case, three different age groups are being compared at the same time (e.g: July 2020). A case study would look at one specific instance of an event (e.g: the case study of Phineas Gage and his brain injury). A longitudinal study would take repeated observations of the same variables (e.g., people) over a period of time (measure 8 year olds in 2020, then measure them again as 12 year olds in 2024, etc).

34 Genetic Basis

C - identical twins have an identical genome (DNA set), so a genetic illness would be expected in both.

35 Freud

A - the id is the part of the mind associated with impulses. Grabbing food due to hunger is an impulse, thus it is driven by the id.

36 Psychodynamic Theorists

C - Jung differed from Freud by seeing the unconscious as linked to our ancestral past as well as the individual. This led to Jung's idea of the collective unconscious.

37 Eysenck's Personality Dimensions

B - in Eysenck's original framework, there are two dimensions: Extroversion/introversion and neuroticism/stability. being lively and sociable is associated with an extroverted personality. Meanwhile there is no evidence for Juanita being overly emotional - so she appears stable.

38 Therapy

D - object relations theory is the process of developing a psyche in relation to others in the childhood environment. In other words, it focuses on early life (childhood) relationships. A large clue is the fact that this is a type of psychotherapy.

39 Sleep Disorders

C - hypersomnolence just means hyper-sleepiness. More technically, it is a condition where a person experiences significant drowsiness even after sleeping for more than 7 hours a day.

40 Colours

C - green is present on the typical spectrum of colours, unique to a specific wavelength range of light. To see a colour on this spectrum, you need to see the associated wavelength ranges and only those wavelengths. This gives C as the correct answer.

41 Experiment - Sleep

A - A would justify the conclusion, as it shows that taking a non-depressed person and making them follow the sleep pattern of the depressed-insomniac person makes them equally as depressed.

42 Experiment - Sleep

C - C shows no effect of changing the sleep pattern on causing depression - the yoked control is still just as happy as the normal sleep control.

43 Experiment - Sleep

D - D is the most relevant criticism here, as it offers an explanation of why the experiment's result isn't valid.

44 Working Memory

B - the original theory of working memory split it into three parts: the central executive, the phonological loop, and the visuo-spatial sketchpad. Studies show that when dual tasks are performed using the same component, performance is hindered.

45 Memory

A - Hermann Ebbinghaus created the CVC trigram to study memory. By creating words with no prior meaning (e.g: YAZ, BEP, etc) to study how humans learn words. He also conducted experiments on the forgetting curve and the spacing effect.

46 Conditioning

B - the stimulus is the event that triggers the response (fear). In this case, it is the lights flickering.

47 Conditioning

B - this is classical conditioning at its core: Pavlov took a neutral stimulus (a bell ringing) and conditioned dogs to associate that with another stimulus (the smell of food).

48 Memory Stores

C - the long-term memory store has the largest capacity. It is theoretically considered to be unlimited in many models.

49 Linguistics

D - pragmatics is the study of inferences from statements in language. This is in contrast to semantics which refers to the meaning ('truth') of sentences. Pragmatics includes the use of speech to confer politeness in the form of words such as 'please' and 'thank you'.

50 Twin Studies

D - although the twins live together, they still have non-shared environments. For example, when they go to school, they might be placed in different classes or sit next to different people who influence them in different ways. As they are monozygotic, they are identical and thus have the same shared genetic material. However, this would not explain the development of different personalities.

51 Babies

D - babies are most attracted to black and white patterns.

52 Behaviour

A - this is an example of excitation transfer - where an arousing experience has an effect on subsequent emotional reactions.

53 Self-Affirmation

C - this is self-affirmation - Cleotha has adapted to this information (her roommate being better at pool) that is threatening to their self-concept. In this case, she has adapted by focusing on her other talents.

54 Cognitive Development

B - Lev Vygotsky argued that children learn best when working with adults and advanced peers.

55 Development

D - Piaget came up with four stages of development with different goals. First, from birth to 18-24 months, there is the sensorimotor stage with the goal of object permanence. Then from 2-7 years comes the preoperational stage with the goal of symbolic thought. Next from 7-11 years is concrete operational with the goal of operational thought. Finally, from adolescence to adulthood comes

the formal operational stage with the goal of abstract conceptual thought. This infant is thus in the sensorimotor stage. Note that just knowing the names of the four stages would have removed answers A, B and C immediately.

56 Memory

C - context-dependent memory is where there is improved recollection when the place of encoding is the same as the place of retrieval. For example, if you learn how to bake a cake in a kitchen, you might find it easier to recall that recipe and method when standing in that kitchen. Thus the answer is C.

57 Biases

E - this is the false consensus effect - Fred has mistakenly assumed his interest in the film to be the prevailing opinion amongst everybody. Consider other examples, e.g: almost everybody is voting for Hillary Clinton in tomorrow's election.

58 Kin Selection

B - evolutionary psychology and biology is all about the spreading of one's favourable genes to the next generation. This in turn suggests that someone is more likely to help someone if they share their genes. In fact, kin selection favours the reproductive success of an organism's relatives, even at a cost to the organism's own survival.

59 Mania

D - bipolar disorder is characterised by periods of mania and depression. Sufferers cycle between the two.

60 Genetics

B - the answers hint that this disorder is linked to the sex chromosomes rather than being autosomal (indeed, you should know that many cases of colour-blindness are more common in one sex than the other). Since Layla is a woman (XX), the condition is X-linked. She is a carrier (and does not have the condition) so her genotype is XX^T , where X^t is the recessive gene. Using a punnet square:

You can see that for the men, there are the possibilities XY and X^tY , giving a 50% chance of men having the condition. For women, there are the combinations XX and XX^t . Due to the presence of a healthy X chromosome

	X	Y
X	XX	XY
X ^t	XX ^t	X ^t Y

Table 1: Punnett square for Question 60

in both cases, none of the daughters will have the condition (although there is a 50% chance of being a carrier).

61 Wernicke's Area

A - Wernicke's area is associated with language comprehension. The other area of the brain involved with language is Broca's area.

62 Linguistics

B - the fact that multiple children independently make these sounds/telegrams is evidence for the idea of a universal grammar - that there is a certain set of structural language rules that are innate to humans.

63 Fixed Action Pattern

E - an FAP is an instinctive pattern of behaviour that is 'hard-wired' as a response to a sign stimulus. The classic example of an FAP is egg retrieval in geese. When the female notices an egg outside the nest (key stimulus), it begins a repeated movement to drag the egg with its beak and neck.

64 Maternal Attachment

A - the answer is A. This is a response that is secure (no stress, anxiety, crying, etc) but also shows a strong attachment (an interest in seeing the mother).

65 Hypothalamus

D - the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) is responsible for the regulation of the circadian rhythm (sleep cycle).

66 Statistical Tests

C - in statistics, power is the probability of rejecting H_0 , the null hypothesis. To increase the power of a test, you can increase the value of alpha, increase

the sample size, or move from a two-tailed test to a one-tailed test. This gives C as the answer.

67 Emotional Reactions

E - this is a classic example of stranger anxiety - a fear of strangers that children exhibit that peaks around 6-12 months.

68 Therapy

D - Systematic desensitisation is a form of behavioural therapy where gradual exposure to a stimulus minimised its effect. Flooding is where the participant is exposed to their fear and forced to confront it. These are explained by classical conditioning principles: removing the fear response to a stimulus, and encouraging a relaxation response. This is better known as counter-conditioning.

69 Therapy

E - client-centred therapy was developed by Carl Rogers and requires six conditions to be met, including empathy and genuineness from the therapist to the client. This allows for the client to talk about themselves without feeling shame.

70 Evolutionary Psychology

A - the evolutionary approach focuses on looking at factors that increase the rate of survival of the species, and the spreading of favourable genes to future generations as a result. Fundamental to this is the ability to bear children.

71 Social Psychology

C - this is an example of reactance - a negative response to authority or rules. Georgia has reacted to this rule negatively by flaunting it.

72 Personality Disorders

A - there are many different types of personality disorders. Antisocial involves a disregard for the rights of others, paranoid involves general mistrust and paranoid delusions, narcissistic involves self-importance, a need for admiration and low regard for others. Histrionic involves attention-seeking behaviours, and borderline involves instability (including unstable relationships and strong emotional reactions). This questions explicitly comments that Eric has 'no regard for the rights of others' which is characteristic of antisocial personality disorder.

73 Biases

C - the self-serving bias is where someone credits himself for his successes but others for his failures. Hence the answer is C.

74 Free Will

C - humanistic psychology focuses on the drive of an individual towards self-actualisation, and free-will is an essential part of people bettering themselves.

75 Illusions

C - the visualisation of a triangle despite there being no actual triangle is an illusion.

76 Heinz Dilemma

A - under Kohlberg's theory of moral development, there are six stages grouped into three levels. The first level is the pre-conventional level. The first stage focuses on obedience and punishment orientation (focus on the consequences of the action), and the second stage focuses on self-interest. The conventional stage is split into the third stage that focuses on conformity to social norms, while the fourth stage regards law and order orientation, e.g: is a law right or wrong morally. Finally, post-conventional deals with the social contract and universal ethical principles. If a child is in the conventional stage, they are most likely to be opposed to stealing the drug because of the legality of the situation. Note that this is more complicated than simply avoiding stealing because of the consequences of jail time. Answer A is a response that requires a more developed consideration of morality.

77 Linguistics

C - the smallest functional unit in language is known as a morpheme. They can be free or bound. A free morpheme functions independently as a word (e.g: house, keeper), while a bound morpheme does not ('isation', 'ed')

78 Multimode Theory of Attention

D - in Johnston and Heinz's multimode theory of attention there are three stages of attention. First, visual images are constructed. Second, the names of objects are constructed. Third, these visual and semantic representations enter the consciousness. More processing requires more mental effort - meaning that

if one talks on a phone, that may divert effort away from driving. Note that neither talking or driving are automatic tasks.

79 Neurons

B - transduction is the term for the conversion of energy into electrical impulses.

80 Conformity

C - this is an example of conformity; Hector is following the group despite his internal disagreement. It is an example of public conformity because his statement that the red jelly bean is similar is an outwards statement - he conforms in public, while he privately disagrees.

81 Neurons

D - the action potential begins at the axon hillock.

82 Neurons

C - the purpose of the myelin sheath is to increase conductivity - i.e: increase the speed of electrical impulses.

83 Differentiation

D - the differentiation of oneself from others is known as individuation - one is distinguishing oneself from a group.

84 Hormones

D - the organisational-activational hypothesis argues that steroid hormones (including the gonadal hormones like testosterone) organise the nervous system during early development. Moreover, it is this effect that causes male/female typical behaviourism, including mate selection. As such, the gonadal hormones described here are organisational hormones.

85 Theories of Psychology

A - Psychodynamics has focused significantly on early childhood - consider Freud and his analysis of the dreams of Little Hans.

86 Neurons

B - this is a motor neuron. It is connected to a sensory or relay neuron in the spinal cord, and connects to an effector (in this case, muscle).

87 Facial Recognition

C - Prosopagnosia is the inability to recognise faces. Elements of the face can still be described though, allowing for a patchwork method of thinking about specific faces.

88 Decentring

E - decentring is simply to consider multiple aspects of a situation. In this case, Latoya is considering the height, the width and the depth.

89 Disorders

D - these skills are linked to various areas of the brain. The presence of these deficits thus suggests damage to those areas of the brain.

90 Ability

A - crystallised intelligence is ability derived from past experience, using knowledge previously acquired. Fluid intelligence is ability to solve problems in new situations without pre-existing knowledge.

91 Personality Development

D - the differences indicate a strong environmental influence influenced by historical context.

92 Psychologists

E - this statement is represented of Thorndike and his development of operant conditioning through the puzzle box experiment - where behaviour that results in something positive is conditioned to be repeated, while negative behaviour is not.

93 Case Study - Schizophrenia

A - the diathesis-stress model attempts to explain psychological illness in terms of a predisposition (the diathesis) and a trigger (the stress). In this case, Michael was predisposed to schizophrenia due to his genetic history of the illness. The stress was the death of his mother - evidenced by the fact that this was when his life started to spiral out of control.

94 Case Study - Schizophrenia

B - this is a delusion - a belief that isn't real.

95 Case Study - Schizophrenia

D - somewhat self-evident, this is a hallucination (a perceived stimulus that is not real) that takes the form of a command (an order to do something).

96 Case Study - Schizophrenia

E - the life experiences of Michael (i.e: his past) would be included in his psychosocial history.

97 Case Study - Schizophrenia

A - in schizophrenia, a positive symptom is something that 'adds' - such as hallucinations, delusions, or uncontrollable movement. A negative symptom is something that is 'withdrawing' - e.g: being emotionless, avoiding social interactions. Hearing voices is a hallucination and thus is a positive symptom.

98 Intelligence

E - both Gardner and Sternberg have broken down intelligence into multiple categories (the theory of multiple intelligences and the triarchic model respectively). As such, both would agree that it is necessary to measure specific abilities rather than g (where g is general intelligence).

99 Personality Disorders

C - personality is simply the characteristic set of behaviours in a person. A personality disorder is thus characterised by maladaptive traits and behaviour patterns that are long-term.

100 Colour Vision

B - there are two competing theories of colour vision: trichromatic and opponent-process. The trichromatic theory states that the human eye can receive light of three different wavelengths (red, green, blue) and combine them into the entire visible spectrum. The opponent-process theory states that the human eye has three receptor complexes with opposing actions (red-green, blue-yellow, black-white). These receptors can only detect one color at a time because the two colors oppose each other.

101 Study Limitations

C - the answer is C. By knowing that the tapes contained subliminal messages, it may have generated a kind of placebo effect.

102 Study Design

A - this study examines responses 'between subjects' - with each participant or group given a different condition (i.e: a different video recording).

103 Study

A - a post hoc analysis is where data is analysed after it is recorded to determine patterns that were not primary objectives of the study. In this case though, gender was originally analysed, so we are looking at the main effect of gender.

104 IQ

D - IQ scores are best correlated between identical (monozygotic) twins raised in different families. This might be surprising to you, but IQ is believed to be mostly hereditary.

105 Attitudes

B - this is an example of social comparison - Melody is comparing herself to a different group.

106 Brain

C - the amygdala is associated with aggression (as well as fear, decision making, and memory) as part of the limbic system.

107 Inference Tasks

D - the Stroop effect is the delay in reaction time between congruent and incongruent stimuli. This has led to the Stroop test, where one reads a word that is a colour, but must say the colour of the letters. In the classic Stroop test, the congruent stimuli are where the word and the colour are the same ('red' in red), while incongruent stimuli differ ('blue' written in green). The same principle is at work here - people should be slower when counting the congruent stimuli (set 2) than the incongruent stimuli (set 1),

108 Personality

C - these five traits ('the big five') are often memorised by the acronym OCEAN. The N stands for neuroticism, which is the same as 'emotional stability'.

109 Therapy

B - this is a part of the cognitive approach.

110 Flynn Effect

A - the Flynn Effect refers to the average increase in IQ scores over the last century, all over the world. There are numerous explanations given for this, including test familiarity, increasing schooling, better nutrition, and many others.

111 Ageing and Cognition

A - from Ponds 1988: elderly adults showed a significantly decreased ability to divide attention when compared with young and middle-aged adults. Young and middle-aged adults did not differ in the ability to divide attention.

112 Antidepressants

E - both of these antidepressants are SSRIs - Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors. This tells us that the answer is E. Even if you didn't know this, none of the other answers really make sense: norepinephrine and epinephrine aren't really linked to depression, decreasing dopamine would worsen depression, and altering genetic factors by medication just isn't feasible.

113 Working Memory

C - working memory is sometimes grouped with short-term memory, although more specifically working memory allows for the manipulation of information. Either way, working memory is short-term storage for current information.

114 Anxiety

B - this is an example of defense pessimism, where you set low expectations for performance. By doing so, a person can use their anxiety in a positive way, and prepare for any of the managed difficulties that could occur.

115 MMPI-2-RF

A - the MMPI-2-RF is used in psychopathology to test for a range of conditions, from schizophrenia to masculinity/femininity. As such, it isn't a test for a specific condition, and talking about low or high scores doesn't really make sense. Instead, it is based around comparing new responses to the responses of people with schizophrenia, etc.

116 Social Construct

E - this is an example of a self-fulfilling prophecy where an event is predicted (strong potential for academic achievement) resulting in the event coming true.

117 Babies

C - this is known as social referencing. The term specifically relates to infants using the reactions of adults to gauge their own appropriate reaction.

118 Scanning Techniques

B - a CT scan uses X-rays to scan the brain. This is why some studies link CT scans to as many as 2% of cancers in the US, although this research is subject to criticism. MRIs use magnetic fields and radio waves, EEGs record electrical activity. Immunohistochemistry is a method of binding antibodies to identify antigens, and microiontophoresis involves the release of chemicals in very small amounts.

119 Hypothalamus

D - the hypothalamus releases certain hormones, regulates body temperature, manages sexual behaviour and certain emotional responses, and controls ap-

petite. This means that damage to the hypothalamus would affect eating and drinking.

120 Learned Helplessness

B - the causal explanations are referred to as attributions.

121 Illnesses

B - Amyloid plaques are a build up of beta-amyloid proteins between nerve cells. This is associated with Alzheimer's disease - indeed these plaques are first found in the hippocampus.

122 Visual Processing

A - because the line is found just as quickly in both scenarios, it suggests that the presence of the line is immediately noticed subconsciously when the image is seen. This is what preattentive processing is - accumulation of information before it is processed and filtered based on importance.

123 Memory

A - Steven is mapping from west to east, allowing for a more organised method of revival - the recollection of information.

124 Auditory Structure

E - the hair cells are involved in hearing faint sounds relative to background noise (e.g: people's voices over loud music). All of the other structures are important to all types of hearing, and would likely cause problems if damaged to his hearing in quiet locations.

125 Adaptation

C - habituation is a diminishing response to a set stimulus. In this case, the stimulus is the noise of the train, and the diminishing response is his awareness of the trains.

126 Psychology Tests

C - the clue is in the name, WAIS-IV measures intelligence! It is the most widely used IQ test in the world. MMPI-2-RF assesses a person's psychological state

(seen in Question 115 to diagnose schizophrenia). TAT assesses perception of interpersonal relationships, MBTI is a personality test, and the Strong Interest Inventory is another personality test - although used to assess work interests.

127 Amnesia

A - anterograde amnesia refers to a difficulty in forming new memories after an event (in contrast to retrograde amnesia). This is consistent with alcoholism; the ability to form new memories is hindered by alcohol, while older memories remain intact.

128 Personal Construct Theory

E - Personal construct therapy was developed by George Kelly for clients in therapy to analyse how they look at the world with minimal involvement from the therapist. In other words, it is cognitive - it focuses on active thought processes.

129 Bandura

A - to live vicariously is to live through the experiences of someone else. Vicarious punishment is thus where someone witnesses the punishment of another person, and that affects the behaviour of that person who wasn't punished. Answer A is the clearest example of this.

130 Aggression

A - the social-cognitive perspective focuses on how cognitive processes (e.g: thinking, judging) develops one's personality. The attributions described in answer A are cognitive, so that is the correct answer.

131 Cephalocaudal Development

B - Cephalocaudal means head to toe (or head to tail here).

132 Theories of Audition

E - Place theory states that our perception of sound depends on where each component frequency produces vibrations along the basilar membrane within the cochlea. Volley theory states that groups of neurons of the auditory system respond to a sound by firing action potentials slightly out of phase with one another so that when combined, a greater frequency of sound can be encoded.

However, volley theory only occurs from 500 Hz to 5000 Hz, so it cannot explain high frequencies. Likewise, place theory does not explain low frequencies.

133 Model of Helping

B - the correct order is noticing, interpretation, perception of responsibility, knowing how to help, and then deciding to help.

134 Coping with Death

C - note that A is wrong, Kubler-Ross' work was actually based on terminally ill patients. Certainly D and E should feel wrong to you as well. The answer is in fact C - the main criticisms of 'DABDA' are that individuals don't necessarily go through every stage, and also that they don't necessarily go through them in that order.

135 Jung

D - this is Carl Jung's famous idea of archetypes - universal models of characters or ideas that features across cultures. Other examples include 'the mother' and 'the trickster'.

136 Schematic Knowledge

A - schematic knowledge refers to prior knowledge of a topic/area. In this case, the person knows these words and the various associations with sleep. As such, this knowledge is activated causing them to recall similar words related to that topic.

137 Subliminal Messages

B - subliminal messaging, or messaging done below the threshold for conscious perception, is subject to a large number of misconceptions. They are not a highly effective method, and they are not used ubiquitously by advertisements over actual content. It seems that participants' ratings of positive response to commercials are not affected by subliminal messages. However, it is true that they are not perceived (by definition). Research suggests that subliminal messages may work in highly specific cases to influence short-term behaviour (e.g: I will now buy that burger because I am hungry, but this effect only lasts for a short period of time).

138 Schizophrenia

A - schizophrenics have a smaller prefrontal cortex and larger ventricles.

139 Behaviour

A - Tolman introduced the idea of purposive behaviorism which considers behaviour in the content of the purpose of the behavior

[Add to]

Also note that Tolman was a proponent of S-S (stimulus-stimulus) rather than S-R (stimulus-response) learning.

140 Asch

A - Asch is known for his famous conformity experiment - this excludes D and E which refer to Zimbardo and Milgrom respectively. The correct (and intuitive answer) is that increasing a group size increases conformity ('group think')

141 Creative Thinking

B - creative thinking tends to be characterised by a deviance from conformity - this is in line with divergent thinking (or 'thinking outside the box').

142 Psychosocial Stages of Development

B - Autonomy vs. shame and doubt (will) is the period at 2-4 months of age when the goal is to develop self-control and independence. This includes toilet-training, dressing oneself, etc. Trust vs. mistrust is the first stage from 0-2 months to develop trust. Initiative vs. guilt from 5-8 years is about purpose and exploration. Industry vs. inferiority at 9-12 years is about 'making it' and being competent. Generativity vs. stagnation occurs at around 40-60 years and is about making one's life count for something.

(Also note that this question answers Question 28).

143 Statistics

D - if the mode \neq median \neq mean, then the distribution is skewed (i.e: for this normal distribution, there is not a symmetric bell curve). We know that the median isn't 26 because only 38% of students are over 25 (rather than the required 50%).

144 Models

A - this graph shows the general adaptation syndrome to some stressor. Stage 1 is alarm, stage 2 is resistance, and stage 3 is exhaustion.

145 Neurons

A - consolidation is where learned experiences are transformed into long-term memory by synaptic changes.

146 Apparent Motion

D - The phi phenomenon is the illusion where the observer sees stationary objects as moving. The Ponzo illusion is where two equal lines are judged as being unequal.

147 Experimental Design

E - this experiment lacks random assignment because the first 15 children to arrive are placed in the first group. This is bad because it might be that early students are more enthusiastic and thus produce better drawings. Additionally, it is not double-blind - the experimenter knows which group is which, and thus could be biased. For example, perhaps she prefers the drawings of the first 15 children because they showed up earlier to her experiment! Perhaps she believed that colour is important in creativity, and this made her think that the coloured crayon drawing were more creative.

148 Self-conscious Emotion

C - a self-conscious emotion is any emotion that derive from our sense of self and the consciousness we have that other people react to us. Such examples include guilt, shame, pride, and embarrassment. The other emotions listed as answers (joy, fear, sadness, disgust) are all independent emotions, in the sense that they don't need other people or value systems to exist - you could experience joy or fear in a world where only you exist.

149 Personality

B - recall that behaviourism is rooted in scientific enquiry and looked at behaviours in terms of stimulus-response patterns. This indicates that B is the correct answer - pathology is simply bad S-R patterns.

150 Recall

E - producing a synonym is most likely to yield the best recall due to semantic connections being created.

151 Bias

D - Functional fixedness is a bias where a person can only conceive of using an object in the way that it is traditionally meant to be used. In this case, the basket is meant to store and carry food, not to be used as an umbrella.

152 Semantic Priming

D - in this case, the use of the word robin has semantic connections with similar words, including bird. This means that semantic priming occurs, and the response is faster.

153 Neurotransmitters

D - the answer to this question is GABA, the inhibitory neurotransmitter in the CNS/brain. Diazepam (also called Valium) acts by binding to GABA and increasing its inhibitory effect.

154 Memory

A - the knowledge of how to ride a bike is stored in the procedural memory - the knowledge of how to do things.

155 Obsession

D - a persistent and unwanted thought or urge is known as an obsession. An example might be obsessive love, where you are fixated on someone.

156 Experts

B - generally speaking, any of these answers might be true in an expert over a novice, but they are not all a major difference. There are many examples who have built their expertise over time with no major gift, or without making connections. Typically, an expert is able to quickly recognise relevant complex patterns due to exposure to them on a prior occasion. For example, an expert mathematician might look at a proof and realise exactly which theorems are useful because of how similar proofs work. A novice will probably take more time.

157 Psychosexual Development

B - this requires an understanding of the five stages of psychosexual development according to Freud, and the consequences of fixation on each stage. Fixation at the oral stage is linked to practices like chewing the ends of pencils, a fixation on eating, kissing, etc. The anal stage is linked to obsessive, neat behaviour or disorganised, reckless outbursts (depending on whether anal retentive or anal expulsive). The phallic stage is linked to the Oedipus complex in boys and the corresponding Electra complex in girls. The latency stage is linked to immature behaviour and an inability to form non-sexual relationships. The genital phase is linked with an inability to form healthy sexual relationships. From this long description, the neat behaviour is linked to fixation at the anal stage. If you have ever heard someone tell another 'not to be so anal' about something, this is where the expression derives.

158 Psychological Schools

B - pragmatism is a philosophy that evaluates beliefs and ideas in terms of their practical application. This is believed to have highly influenced functionalism, which looks at psychology in terms of society (and its effect on society).

159 Prisoner's Dilemma

E - you should recognise the situation described as a variant of the Prisoner's Dilemma. This is a commonly studied social exchange.

160 Twin Studies

B - Francis Galton used twin studies to determine whether human ability was hereditary. He concluded that the evidence favoured nature rather than nurture. Galton even coined the term 'nature or nurture'.

161 Self-Presentation

D - Supplication is a self-presentation strategy where weakness is emphasised over strength. Eliciting sympathy is a method of doing so.

162 Normative Influence

D - Normative influence is where people change their behavior to conform to a group/society. It is motivated primarily by a fear of social rejection.

163 Validity

B - this study is testing for predictive reliability - whether one variable is a good indicator of another variable.

164 Hormones

A - the major hormones involved in the menstrual cycle are FSH, Oestrogen, Progesterone, and LH. Melatonin regulates the circadian rhythm (sleep), oxytocin is involved in attachment ('the cuddle hormone'), and vasopressin (ADH) and aldosterone affect kidney function.

165 Egocentrism

A - this is an example of a personal fable, a false idea that someone is uniquely special. This is a common trait in adolescents.

166 Individual Psychology

B - generally speaking, Freud is a controversial figure, even back in his day. Adler was a psychotherapist who split with Freud for the reason stated in answer B.

167 Schools of Psychology

C - this description describes behaviourism. Behaviourism attempts to measure stimulus-response behaviours, and tends to go hand-in-hand with the tabula rasa theory - all behaviours are learned from the environment. Of course, there are many branches and variants.

168 Memory Stores

A - sensory memory is a very short-term type of memory that allows the person to retain impressions of sensory information after the original stimulus has stopped. Iconic memory is the visual component of sensory memory, and has been shown to be highly sensitive to masking stimuli - visual stimuli reduced by the presence of another image.

169 Working Memory

A - the neural hub is believed to be located in the prefrontal cortex of the brain. The frontal lobes are strongly associated with short-term memory.

170 Conditioning

A - this is a case of backward conditioning, The unconditioned stimulus (the shock) is consistently presented before a neutral stimulus (the tone). This is typically an ineffective conditioning method though.

171 Delirium

B - delirium is a acute decline in the faculties, typically lasting for a short period of time (although a case can last for months and do lasting damage). Causes of delirium include drug and alcohol use, sleep deprivation, old age, etc. Dementia (otherwise known as Alzheimer's disease) is a permanent condition.

172 Perception

B - the Moon illusion is commonly studied and still debated today. The best explanations state that size judgment here is based on visual cues. This case is not too dissimilar to the Ebbinghaus illusion.

173 Reflex

E - the rooting reflex is seen in babies, and is as described: the baby will turn to the stimulus and make sucking ('rooting') motions. The Moro reflex involves sudden loss of support and causes the baby to move its arms and cry. The Babinski reflex occurs after the sole of the foot has been firmly stroked, causing the big toe to move up. The palmar reflex is where stroking the palm of an infant causes the palm to close. The tonic neck reflex occurs when a baby's head is turned to one side, so the arm on that side stretches out and the opposite arm bends up.

174 Tabula Rasa

E - the idea of tabula rasa (or 'blank state') was penned by John Locke.

175 Attributions

B - this is the actor-observer bias in effect, where someone attributes their own actions to external causes while attributing other people's behaviors to internal causes.

176 Overjustification Effect

B - the overjustification effect is where offering a reward ends up reducing intrinsic motivation. Why? You now view the task as something obligatory to do for this external reward, rather than for your own personal enjoyment. Consider the example of game development. People are highly motivated when it's a fun hobby, but lose motivation when it's their means of earning a salary.

177 Linguistics

E - the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis is the controversial suggestion that language affects thought. The strong variant states that language determines thought, while the weak variant merely states that language influences thought. This hypothesis is mostly shunned by linguistics today.

178 Persuasion

B - the foot-in-the-door (FTD) technique is where a small request is made, and when it is approved, ask a bigger request. For example, asking to stay out until 11pm, and then asking again to stay out until 11.30pm. B is the correct answer here.

179 Prenatal Development

D - D is the correct order. The sperm fuses with the ovum during fertilisation to produce a fertilised ovum (a zygote). This then develops into an embryo. During the embryonic stage, the major structures are being formed. At the ninth week after conception, this embryo has developed into a foetus.

180 Biases

A - the effect of Sheri's initial failure overshadows her successive accomplishments, and thus Arthur will be seen as better than Sheri.

181 Personality Types

B - authoritarian personalities tend to be strict, focused on order, control and discipline. This personality type also tends to see hostility towards outgroups.

	Response Present	Response Absent
Stimulus Present	Hit	Miss
Stimulus Absent	False Alarm	Correct Rejection

Table 2: Signal Detection Theory

182 Confirmation Bias

C - confirmation bias is where a person accepts a new piece of information because it supports their pre-conceived ideas. They do not seek information that would challenge their ideas or hypotheses.

183 Fields of Psychology

A - the analysis of reproductive success tells us that this is evolutionary psychology, a field interested in natural selection and how traits are passed on to the next generation.

184 Case Statistics

B - the incidence of an illness is the number of new cases over a period of time (e.g: 100,000 cases per year). The prevalence is the number of cases overall.

185 Signal Detection Theory

B - there are four outcomes in signal detection theory, shown in the table above.

Due to the importance of the role, there is likely to almost always be a present response (i.e: she will search), regardless of whether there is a stimulus present (e.g: a bomb). This means there will be a large number of hits, but also a large number of false alarms.

186 Premack principle

A - the Premack principle is where a high-probability behaviour is used to reinforce a low-probability behaviour. For example, if you eat your vegetables, then you can eat some cake later.

187 False Memories

A - the experiments by Loftus (and subsequent replications) suggest that false memories are not uncommon, and that people struggle to distinguish them from real memories. This is consistent with 25% of the students having false memories, with a high degree of confidence in the false memories.

188 Method of Limits

A- this is the method of limits, where stimuli are presented in a graduated scale, and the participant must judge whether they detected the stimulus or not.

189 Long-term Potentiation

B - long-term potentiation (LTP) is where activity strengthens synapses (the connection between neurons). This is the common mechanism behind learning - you read a fact, use it, review it, etc, until that connection is cemented.

190 Statistical Tests

E - the two-sample t-test is used to determine if two population means are equal. This would allow for the best comparison between the two groups.

191 Information Processing

B - this is the self-reference effect - when people are asked to remember information related to themselves, their recall rate is much higher.

192 Pavlov

A - this is a (classically) conditioned effect, with a stimulus eliciting a response. The restaurant's name is the stimulus, while the salivation is the response.

193 Neurons

A - oligodendrocytes are the CNS equivalent of Schwann cells in the PNS - they produce the myelin sheath. Astrocytes provide support for CNS cells, microglia are macrophages that clear cellular debris. Monocytes are a type of white blood cell, and endothelial cells make up the endothelium that lines various organs.

194 Group Association

C - propinquity is just a synonym for proximity, which is a good clue that this is the answer - people form closer bonds with those more proximate to them.

195 Language Acquisition

B - you will notice that many L2 speakers of English have an accent if learnt after adolescence, and you most certainly do in your L2. Other features (like

syntax) can be better than the native-level in some cases as rules are memorised and understood better.

196 Law

A - in the United States, the term used to describe the obligation to report abuse is 'mandatory reporting'. For example, teachers are mandatory reporters.

197 Experiment - Medical Drugs

E - there is an obvious carryover effect in this experiment: each dose may decrease depression but could continue to have an effect even when that dose is changed.

198 Experiment - Medical Drugs

B - this is a single factor design because there is only one independent variable being changed (the dosage). It is within subjects because they are changing the independent variable on the same subject(s) (rather than having different groups on different doses throughout).

199 Experiment - Medical Drugs

B - a control group is always needed to compare psychological and medical results. In this case, the control group should be a set of people who took the placebo for all four weeks. That way, one can observe whether Deplow is better than a placebo.

200 Research Approaches

E - archival analysis is the analysis of previously collected data. In this case, the historical data of the census falls under that category.

201 Experimental Design

C - the people used in a survey are known as the sample. They are sampled from the population - the group that can be selected to be in this experiment.

202 History of Psychology

D - Wundt and James are both considered to be the fathers of psychology. Wundt was the founder of the first laboratory to study psychology in the world

(in Germany), while James did a similar thing in the United States. Both made substantial contributions to the field of psychology.

203 Variables

B - a mediating variable links the independent and dependent variables, which in this case are violent television and aggressive behaviour respectively. A predictor variable is a variable used to quantify or predict some other variable (e.g: using the scores on mock exams to predict scores on real exams).

204 Interactions

A - this interaction is completely selfless, done for no external reward. This is an example of pure altruism.

205 Neurons

A - with regard to neurons, the all-or-none principle is the idea that a neuron won't 'fire' (depolarise) unless the threshold potential has been reached. This is answer A.