

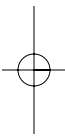
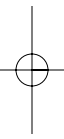
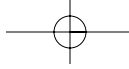
GRE^{*}

Psychology Subject Test Practice Test Explanations

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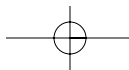
TEST PREP AND
ADMISSIONS

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Answers and Explanations

GRE Psychology Subject Test Practice Test

ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. C
5. D
6. D
7. C
8. D
9. C
10. E
11. B
12. E
13. E
14. B
15. B
16. B
17. D
18. E
19. B
20. D

PSYCHOLOGY EXPLANATIONS**1. (C)**

A child with a difficult temperament is a child who demonstrates unpredictable habits, is hard to awaken or potty-train, and does not adapt or “warm up” to a new situation over time. Choice (C) is correct. Thomas and Chess are the researchers most closely tied to this area of research into temperament. They have identified three temperaments in children: easy, difficult, and slow-to-warm-up.

2. (C)

The most common class of drugs used to treat ADHD is stimulants. Ritalin, perhaps the most widely known drug treatment for ADHD, is a stimulant. Choice (D) is correct.

3. (A)

Tourette's disorder is characterized by uncontrollable tics and vocalizations. Choice (C) is correct.

4. (C)

Harlow's research is linked to the term “contact comfort.” His research with rhesus monkeys showed that monkeys who were raised with out their mothers or the presence of other monkeys were profoundly disturbed. Choice (C) is correct. Monkeys in these studies preferred cloth mother for contact comfort despite the fact that milk was only provided by wire mother.

5. (D)

Systematic desensitization is a treatment used for phobias that is based on classical conditioning. A subject is gradually exposed to the unconditioned, fear-inducing stimulus in safe, comfortable environments over time. Gradually the feelings of fear subside. Choice (D) is correct.

6. (D)

Divergent thinking is a term used in studies on creativity. Divergent thinking is thinking that is “outside of the box.” It involves a break from functional fixedness in which objects and tools are associated with a single functional use. In the

example described here, Michael is demonstrating divergent thinking when he uses the chopstick in a non-traditional way as a coffee stirrer. Choice (D) is correct.

7. (C)

Ernst Weber is a pioneer in the field of sensation and perception. In the nineteenth century, he began studies of “just noticeable difference” to see how much of a change in the intensity of a stimulus is necessary for a subject to notice. Choice (C) is correct.

8. (D)

A criterion-referenced test is a test that requires a subject to demonstrate mastery of content and the ability to reach a predetermined qualifying score. That score is not norm-referenced or based on performance relative to the performance of others. The GED is a criterion-referenced test. IQ tests and the GRE are norm-referenced tests. MMPI and TAT are used to assess personality. Choice (D) is correct.

9. (C)

The independent variable is the variable that the experimenter manipulates. The dependent variable is the variable that is measured. In the example described in this question, the experimenter is manipulating the type of meat powder. Therefore meat powder is the independent variable. The variable that is measured is saliva levels, so saliva levels is the dependent variable, choice (C).

10. (E)

The Zimbardo prison experiment is most closely associated with the term “deindividuation.” Zimbardo found that members of the two groups in the study, the prisoners and the guards, began behaving similarly based on the roles they were assigned. Zimbardo referred to this phenomenon as deindividuation, choice (E).

GRE Psychology Subject Test Practice Test

11. (B)

Dichotic listening tasks require a subject to focus on one of two audio streams being delivered to them simultaneously. Broadbent did pioneering work on selective attention using dichotic listening tasks. Choice (B) is correct.

12. (E)

The hippocampus is the region of the brain most closely associated with memory. Damage to the hippocampus has been found to cause amnesia and direct stimulation of the hippocampus has been reported to cause the spontaneous recovery of distant memories. Choice (E) is correct.

13. (E)

Norm-referenced tests have a standard distribution. This means that a fixed percentage of test takers fall within a given number of standard deviations for the test. A T-score is another way of expressing the number of standard deviations above or below the mean of a normal distribution. In the example provided in this question, Terry scored two standard deviations above the mean. That would translate to a T-score of + 2.0. The mean of a standard distribution is always the 50th percentile. Thirty-four percent of test takers will fall between the mean and one standard deviation above the mean. So one standard deviation above the mean would result in a score in the 84th percentile ($50 + 34 = 84$). Fourteen percent of the standard deviation falls between one and two standard deviations from the mean. That means that a score that is two standard deviations above the mean would be in the $84 + 14 = 98$ th percentile. Choice (E) is correct.

14. (B)

The opponent-process theory of color perception was developed by Hering. It proposes that color perception is based on the activity of receptors that are tuned to pairs of colors. The presence of afterimages has been used to support this theory. Choice (B) is correct. None of the other responses are accurate statements about the study of visual perception.

15. (B)

Myelin is a substance that surrounds or sheaths neural axons to allow for speedier conduction of the

neural impulse through a neuron. Myelin is not a neurotransmitter and it is not contained within terminal boutons. Choice (B) is correct.

16. (B)

The Premack Principle refers to the phenomenon in learning theory in which a less enjoyable activity is reinforced with a more favorable activity. This is analogous to the example described in choice (B) where a less enjoyable activity (doing chores) is reinforced with a more enjoyable activity, playing video games. Choice (B) is correct.

17. (D)

Lawrence Kohlberg is known for his theory of moral development. To develop this stage theory of moral development, Kohlberg presented subjects with a hypothetical situation called the Heinz dilemma. Based on subject responses to this and other similar dilemmas, Kohlberg developed his theory. Choice (D) is correct. Remember that Carol Gilligan is a well-known feminist critic of Kohlberg's theory.

18. (E)

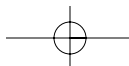
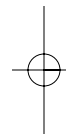
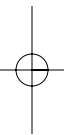
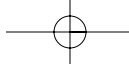
Jung is a psychoanalyst best known for his theories of archetypes and the collective unconscious. Among the archetypes described by Jung are the anima and the animus. Jung is not closely associated with thanatos or the death wish. Thanatos and eros are closely tied to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theories. Choice (E) is correct.

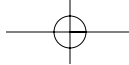
19. (B)

The tendency to attribute one's own behavior to situational causes while attributing the actions of others to dispositional causes is known as the fundamental attribution error. Choice (B) is correct.

20. (D)

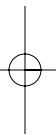
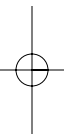
Seligman's study of dogs found that over time dogs began to exhibit depressed behaviors when given electric shocks without having an opportunity to avoid the shock. After multiple administrations of the shock without an opportunity to avoid it, the dogs showed no interest in avoiding the shock, even when it would be easy to avoid. Seligman referred to this phenomenon as learned helplessness, choice (D).





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