AP Psychology Unit 1 Study Guide: Thinking Critically

1. The first psychology laboratory was established by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

1. Wundt; 1879
2. James; 1890
3. Freud; 1900
4. Watson; 1913

2. Who would be most likely to agree with the statement, “psychology is the science of mental life”?

a. Wilhelm Wundt

b. John Watson

c. Ivan Pavlov

d. virtually any American psychologist during

the 1960s

3. Juan believes that psychologists should go back to using introspection as a research tool. This technique is based on

a. survey methodology.

b. experimentation.

c. self-examination of mental processes.

d. the study of observable behavior.

4. During his presentation on the history of psychology, Sanjay notes that Darwin’s theory led most directly to the development of the school of

1. structuralism.
2. behaviorism.
3. functionalism.
4. humanism.

5. Who wrote the early textbook Principles of Psychology?

1. Wilhelm Wundt
2. Ivan Pavlov
3. Jean Piaget
4. William James

6. Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow are most closely associated with

1. cognitive psychology.
2. behaviorism.
3. psychodynamic theory.
4. humanistic psychology.

7. Who would be most likely to agree with the statement, “Psychology should investigate only behaviors that can be observed”?

1. Wilhelm Wundt
2. Sigmund Freud
3. John B. Watson
4. William James

8. Dharma’s term paper on the history of American psychology notes that

1. psychology began as the science of mental life.
2. from the 1920s to the 1960s, psychology was defined as the scientific study of observable behavior.
3. contemporary psychologists study both over behavior and covert thoughts.
4. all of these statements are true.

9. In Psychology, behavior is best defined as

1. anything a person says, does, or feels.
2. any action we can observe and record.
3. any action, whether observable or not.
4. anything we can infer from a person’s actions.

10. Which of the following exemplifies the issue of the relative importance of nature and nurture on our behavior?

1. the issue of the relative influence of biology and experience on behavior
2. the issue of the relative influence of rewards and punishments on behavior
3. the debate as to the relative importance of heredity and instinct in determining behavior
4. the debate as to whether mental processes are a legitimate area of scientific study

11. Which seventeenth-century philosopher believed that some ideas are innate?

1. Aristotle
2. Plato
3. Descartes
4. Locke

12. The philosophical views of John Locke are to those of René Descartes as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. nature; nurture
2. nurture; nature
3. rationality; irrationality
4. irrationality; rationality

13. Professor Gutierrez, who believes that human emotions are best understood as being jointly determined by heredity, learning, and the individual’s social and cultural contexts, is evidently a proponent of the

1. psychodynamic perspective
2. evolutionary perspective.
3. evolutionary perspective.
4. neuroscience perspective.

14. Psychologists who study the degree to which genes influence our personality are working from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ perspective.

1. behavioral
2. evolutionary
3. behavior genetics
4. neuroscience

15. A psychologist who explores how Asian and North American definitions of attractiveness differ is working from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ perspective.

1. behavioral
2. evolutionary
3. cognitive
4. social-cultural

16. Dr. Ernst explains behavior in terms of different situations. Dr. Ernst is working from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ perspective.

1. behavioral
2. evolutionary
3. social-cultural
4. cognitive

17. Dr. Waung investigates how a person’s interpretation of a situation affects his or her reaction. Evidently, Dr. Waung is working from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ perspective.

1. neuroscience
2. behavioral
3. cognitive
4. social-cultural

18. During a dinner conversation, a friend says that the cognitive and behavioral perspectives are quite similar. You disagree and point out that the cognitive perspective emphasizes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, whereas the behavioral perspective emphasizes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. conscious processes; observable responses
2. unconscious processes; conscious processes
3. overt behaviors; covert behaviors
4. introspection; experimentation

19. A psychologist who conducts experiments solely intended to build psychology’s knowledge base is engaged in

1. basic research.
2. applied research.
3. industrial-organizational research.
4. clinical research.

20. Today, psychology is a discipline that

1. connects with a diversity of other fields.
2. is largely independent of other disciplines.
3. is focused primarily on basic research.
4. is focused primarily on applied research.

21. Which subfield is most directly concerned with studying human behavior in the workplace?

1. clinical psychology
2. personality psychology
3. industrial/organizational psychology
4. psychiatry

22. Terrence wants to talk to a professional to help him cope with some academic challenges he’s facing. You recommend that he contact a(n)

1. industrial/organizational psychologist.
2. developmental psychologist.
3. counseling psychologist.
4. psychiatrist.

23. Which of the following is also a physician?

1. clinical psychologist
2. experimental psychologist
3. psychiatrist
4. biological psychologist

24. A major principle underlying the SQ3R study method is that

1. people learn and remember material best when they actively process it.
2. many students overestimate their mastery of text and lecture material.
3. study time should be spaced over time rather than crammed into one session.
4. overlearning disrupts efficient retention.

25. A fraternity brother rationalizes the fact that he spends very little time studying by saying that he “doesn’t want to peak too soon and have the test material become stale.” You tell him that

1. he is probably overestimating his knowledge of the material.
2. if he devotes extra time to studying, his retention of the material will be improved.
3. the more often students review material, the better their exam scores.
4. all of these statements are true.

26. Which of the following best describes the hindsight bias?

1. Events seem more predictable before they have occurred.
2. Events seem more predictable after they have occurred.
3. A person’s intuition is usually correct.
4. A person’s intuition is usually not correct.

27. John eagerly opened an online trading account, believing that his market savvy would allow him to pick stocks that would make him a rich day trader. This belief best illustrates

1. a placebo effect.
2. illusory correlation.
3. hindsight bias.
4. overconfidence.

28. Theories are defined as

1. testable propositions.
2. factors that may change in response to manipulation.
3. statistical indexes.
4. principles that help to organize observations and predict behaviors or events.

29. Which of the following is NOT a basic research technique used by psychologists?

1. description
2. replication
3. experimentation
4. correlation

30. After detailed study of a gunshot wound victim, a psychologist concludes that the brain region destroyed is likely to be important for memory functions. Which type of research did the psychologist use to deduce this?

1. the case study
2. a survey
3. correlation
4. experimentation

31. Well-done surveys measure attitudes in a representative subset, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, of an entire group, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. population; random sample
2. control group; experimental group
3. experimental group; control group
4. random sample; population

32. A researcher was interested in determining whether her students’ test performance could be predicted from their proximity to the front of the classroom. So she matched her students’ scores on a math test with their seating position. This study is an example of

1. experimentation.
2. correlational research.
3. a survey.
4. naturalistic observation.

33. If height and body weight are positively correlated, which of the following is true?

1. There is a cause-effect relationship between height and weight.
2. As height increases, weight decreases.
3. Knowing a person’s height, one can predict his or her weight.
4. All of these statements are true.

34. If eating saturated fat and the likelihood of contracting cancer are positively correlated, which of the following is true?

1. Saturated fat causes cancer.
2. People who are prone to develop cancer prefer foods containing saturate fat.
3. A separate factor links the consumption of saturated fat to cancer.
4. None of these statements are necessarily true.

35. The strength of the relationship between two vivid events will most likely be

1. significant.
2. positive.
3. negative.
4. overestimated.

36. Which of the following research method does not belong with the others?

1. case study
2. survey
3. naturalistic observation
4. experiment

37. To prevent the possibility that a placebo effect or researchers’ expectations will influence a study’s results, scientists employ

1. control groups.
2. experimental groups.
3. random assignment.
4. the double-blind procedure.

38. The concept of control is important in psychological research because

1. without control over independent and dependent variables, researchers cannot describe, predict, or explain behavior.
2. experimental control allows researchers to study the influence of one or two independent variables on a dependent variable while holding other potential influences constant.
3. without experimental control, results cannot be generalized from a sample to a population.
4. of all the of these reasons.

39. Rashad, who is participating in a psychology experiment on the effects of alcohol on perception, is truthfully told by the experimenter that he has been assigned to the “high-dose condition.” What is wrong with this experiment?

1. There is no control condition.
2. Rashad’s expectations concerning the effects of “high doses” of alcohol on perception may influence his performance.
3. Rashad was given a placebo, so the results may be tainted.
4. All of these statements are correct.

40. In order to study the effects of lighting on mood, Dr. Cooper had students fill out questionnaires in brightly lit or dimly lit rooms. In this study the independent variable consists of

1. the number of students assigned to each group.
2. the students’ response to the questionnaire.
3. the room lighting.
4. the subject matter of the questions asked.

41. What is the median of the following distribution of scores: 1, 3, 7, 7, 2, 8, 4?

1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4

42. What is the mode of the following distribution of scores: 2, 2, 4, 4, 4, 14?

1. 2
2. 4
3. 5
4. 6

43. What is the median of the following distribution: 10, 7, 5, 11, 8, 6, 9?

1. 6
2. 7
3. 8
4. 9

44. Esteban refuses to be persuaded by an advertiser’s claim that people using their brand of gasoline average 50 miles per gallon. His decision probably is based on

1. the possibility that the average is the mean, which could be artificially inflated by a few extreme scores.
2. the absence of information about the size of the sample studied.
3. the absence of information about the variation in sample scores.
4. all of these statements.

45. The set of scores that would likely be most representative of the population from which it was drawn would be a sample with a relatively

1. large standard deviation.
2. small standard deviation.
3. large range.
4. small range.

46. Which of the following is NOT characteristic of a normal curve?

1. The distribution is bell-shaped and symmetrical.
2. Most scores fall near the mean.
3. About 95 percent of all scores fall within one standard deviation on either side of the mean.
4. The distribution describes many types of psychological data.

47. In generalizing from a sample to the population, it is important that

1. the sample be representative of the population.
2. the sample be large.
3. the scores in the sample have low variability.
4. all of these conditions be observed.

48. Dr. Salazar recently completed an experiment in which she compared reasoning ability in a sample of females and a sample of males. The means of the female and male samples equaled 21 and 19, respectively, on a 25-point scale. A statistical test revealed that her results were not statistically significant. What can Dr. Salazar conclude?

1. Females have superior reasoning ability.
2. The difference in the means of the two samples is probably due to chance variation.
3. The difference in the means of the two samples is reliable.
4. She cannot reach any of these conclusions.

49. A friend majoring in anthropology is critical of psychological research because it often ignores the influence of culture on thoughts and actions. You point out that

1. there is very little evidence that cultural diversity has a significant effect on specific behaviors and attitudes.
2. most researchers assign participants to experimental and control conditions in such a way as to fairly represent the cultural diversity of the population under study.
3. It is impossible for psychologists to control for every possible variable that might influence research participants.
4. even when specific thoughts and actions vary across cultures, as they often do, the underlying processes are much the same.

50. Which statement about the ethics of experimentation with people and animals is false?

1. Only a small percentage of animal experiments use shock.
2. Allegations that psychologists routinely subject animals to pain, starvation, and other inhumane conditions have been proven untrue.
3. The American Psychological Association and the British Psychological Society have set strict guidelines for the care and treatment of human and animal subjects.
4. More animals are used in psychological research than are killed by humane animal shelters.