QCAA Year 12 Psychology Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Questions

1. What type of memory is characterized by knowledge of facts and general information?

A. Procedural memory

B. Semantic memory

C. Implicit memory

D. Working memory

2. What type of behavior is characterized by hostility and harm towards others?

A. Antisocial behaviour

B. Prosocial behaviour

C. Bystander intervention

D. Altruism

3. Which concept focuses on how attitudes and behaviors are internalized over time?

A. Social constructionism

B. Social identity theory

C. Internalisation

D. Behaviorism

4. What is the process of selecting important sensory information for focused attention called?

A. Reception

B. Sensation

C. Selection

D. Transduction

5. What term describes a lack of cone vision leading to seeing only black, white, and grey?

A. Monochromacy

B. Achromotopsia

C. Cataracts

D. Colour vision deficiency

6. What is the minimum level of energy required for a stimulus outside our body to be detected by our internal senses called?

A. Absolute threshold

B. Difference threshold

C. Signal detection

D. Perceptual threshold

7. What aspect of Duck's model of relationship dissolution refers to the conclusion phase?

A. Intrapsychic

B. Grave-dressing

C. Social

D. Resurrection

8. What type of synapse causes the target cell to become less likely to fire an action potential?

A. Inhibitory synapses

B. Excitatory synapses

C. Neural synapses

D. Electrical synapses

9. Which neurotransmitter is primarily involved in learning and is considered excitatory?

A. Serotonin

B. Glutamate

C. Norepinephrine

D. Dopamine

10. Which binocular depth cue is defined by the brain's comparison of two slightly different images from each eye?

A. Binocular convergence

B. Retinal disparity

C. Depth perception

D. Monocular cues

Answers

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B

Explanations

1. What type of memory is characterized by knowledge of facts and general information?

A. Procedural memory

B. Semantic memory

C. Implicit memory

D. Working memory

The type of memory characterized by knowledge of facts and general information is semantic memory. This form of memory involves the retention of information such as vocabulary, historical facts, and conceptual knowledge that is not tied to personal experiences. It allows individuals to understand and use language, recognize familiar concepts, and recall information that contributes to their general understanding of the world. While procedural memory involves skills and tasks that can be performed without conscious awareness, such as riding a bike or tying shoelaces, and implicit memory refers to unconscious memories that influence behavior without deliberate recall, these do not pertain directly to factual knowledge. Working memory, on the other hand, is a short-term memory system that is responsible for temporarily holding and manipulating information, but it is not specifically about storing general knowledge or facts. Hence, semantic memory distinctively represents the storage and recall of facts and general information, making it the correct answer in this context.

2. What type of behavior is characterized by hostility and harm towards others?

A. Antisocial behaviour

B. Prosocial behaviour

C. Bystander intervention

D. Altruism

Antisocial behaviour is characterized by hostility and harm towards others, reflecting a lack of concern for the well-being of individuals or society as a whole. This type of behavior can manifest in various forms, including aggression, deceit, and violation of social norms. It is often associated with actions that can lead to physical or emotional distress to others and can be seen in patterns of behavior in certain psychological conditions. In contrast, prosocial behaviour refers to actions that benefit others, such as helping, sharing, or providing support, which is inherently the opposite of antisocial behavior. Bystander intervention involves the actions taken by individuals to help someone in distress, demonstrating compassion rather than hostility. Altruism also pertains to selfless acts aimed at helping others without expecting anything in return, which again stands in stark contrast to the characteristics defining antisocial behaviour. Thus, the distinction lies in the inherent motives and outcomes of each type of behavior, confirming that antisocial behaviour best fits the description provided.

3. Which concept focuses on how attitudes and behaviors are internalized over time?

A. Social constructionism

B. Social identity theory

C. Internalisation

D. Behaviorism

The concept that focuses on how attitudes and behaviors are internalized over time is internalisation. This process refers to the way individuals adopt the beliefs, values, and norms of a group or society, incorporating them into their own identity. Over time, these external influences shape an individual's internal beliefs and behaviors, making them a fundamental part of how a person perceives themselves and interacts with the world. Internalisation is key in understanding how socialization occurs, as it illustrates the transition from external influences to personal acceptance and integration of those influences into one's attitudes. This process is critical in the development of moral values, social norms, and personal views, allowing individuals to not only conform to societal standards but to genuinely believe in them. In contrast, social constructionism emphasizes how social phenomena are created through interactions rather than focusing specifically on the internalization of those attitudes and behaviors. Social identity theory investigates how group membership affects a person's identity but does not centrally address the process of internalization. Behaviorism, on the other hand, focuses on observable behaviors and external stimuli rather than the internal psychological processes involved in how attitudes and behaviors are adopted over time.

4. What is the process of selecting important sensory information for focused attention called?

A. Reception

B. Sensation

C. Selection

D. Transduction

The process of selecting important sensory information for focused attention is referred to as selection. This concept plays a crucial role in perception, as it allows individuals to filter and prioritize the vast amount of sensory information they encounter at any given moment. Selection helps to focus cognitive resources on stimuli that are deemed most relevant or important, enabling more effective processing and response. In the context of sensory processing, reception pertains to the detection of stimuli through the sensory organs, while sensation refers to the initial awareness of these stimuli. Transduction, on the other hand, is the process through which sensory information is converted into neural signals that can be interpreted by the brain. Selection is distinct in that it specifically relates to the prioritization of stimuli for further cognitive processing.

5. What term describes a lack of cone vision leading to seeing only black, white, and grey?

A. Monochromacy

B. Achromotopsia

C. Cataracts

D. Colour vision deficiency

The term that describes a lack of cone vision leading to seeing only black, white, and grey is "achromatopsia." This condition is characterized by a complete absence of color vision, resulting from a deficiency or non-functionality of the cone photoreceptors in the retina, which are responsible for color perception. Individuals with achromatopsia see the world in shades of grey and have difficulties with visual acuity, as well as problems with light sensitivity and glare. The other options refer to different concepts that do not specifically align with the complete absence of color perception. Monochromacy, while closely related, typically refers to a type of color blindness where only one type of cone is functional, allowing for limited color perception but not necessarily a complete absence. Cataracts are opacities that form in the lens of the eye, leading to blurred vision but not specifically affecting color perception in the way achromatopsia does. Color vision deficiency encompasses a range of conditions, including various types of color blindness, but it does not define the total lack of color perception that achromatopsia does.

6. What is the minimum level of energy required for a stimulus outside our body to be detected by our internal senses called?

A. Absolute threshold

B. Difference threshold

C. Signal detection

D. Perceptual threshold

The minimum level of energy required for a stimulus to be detected by our internal senses is known as the absolute threshold. This concept refers to the smallest intensity of a stimulus that can be experienced and is critical in understanding sensory perception. For example, the absolute threshold for hearing might be the faintest sound that a person can detect. It essentially marks the boundary between the stimulus being present and not being perceived. The other options, while related to sensory perception, refer to different concepts. The difference threshold pertains to the smallest detectable difference between two stimuli, which is often termed just noticeable difference (JND). Signal detection theory involves the methodology for distinguishing between the presence and absence of a stimulus in the presence of noise, focusing on decision-making under uncertainty. Perceptual threshold is less commonly used and may refer more broadly to an individual's ability to discern stimuli, rather than specifying the minimum energetic level required for detection.

7. What aspect of Duck's model of relationship dissolution refers to the conclusion phase?

A. Intrapsychic

B. Grave-dressing

C. Social

D. Resurrection

In Duck's model of relationship dissolution, the grave-dressing phase is particularly significant as it represents the conclusion of a relationship. This phase involves individuals reflecting on their relationship after it has ended. During this process, they create a narrative or story that helps them make sense of the relationship and its dissolution. People often re-evaluate the experiences and emotions associated with the relationship, leading to a sense of closure. This phase is crucial for personal healing, as it allows individuals to separate their identities from the relationship and articulate their feelings in a way that supports moving on. They may also engage in an assessment of the relationship's overall impact on their lives. By developing this narrative, individuals can better cope with the end of the relationship, clarify lessons learned, and prepare for future relationships.

8. What type of synapse causes the target cell to become less likely to fire an action potential?

A. Inhibitory synapses

B. Excitatory synapses

C. Neural synapses

D. Electrical synapses

Inhibitory synapses are critical in regulating neuronal activity by making the target cell less likely to fire an action potential. When an inhibitory synapse is activated, it typically results in the release of neurotransmitters such as gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) or glycine. These neurotransmitters bind to receptors on the postsynaptic neuron, leading to an influx of negatively charged ions (such as chloride) or an efflux of positively charged ions (such as potassium). This process hyperpolarizes the neuron, increasing the negative voltage inside the cell and moving the neuron further away from the threshold needed to trigger an action potential. This mechanism is essential for maintaining balance in the nervous system by preventing excessive excitation, which could lead to conditions such as seizures. In contrast, excitatory synapses increase the likelihood of an action potential by depolarizing the neuron. While neural synapses refer to general connections between neurons and electrical synapses involve direct cytoplasmic connections between cells, neither of these categories specifically emphasizes the reduction of action potential firing likelihood as the inhibitory synapses do.

9. Which neurotransmitter is primarily involved in learning and is considered excitatory?

A. Serotonin

B. Glutamate

C. Norepinephrine

D. Dopamine

Glutamate is the primary neurotransmitter involved in learning and is known for its excitatory properties. As a major neurotransmitter in the brain, glutamate plays a crucial role in synaptic plasticity, which is essential for learning and memory formation. It helps facilitate the communication between neurons by binding to specific receptors on postsynaptic neurons, enhancing their likelihood of firing an action potential. This excitatory function makes glutamate integral to the processes of encoding new information and strengthening synaptic connections as one learns. In contrast, while other neurotransmitters like dopamine do play important roles in reinforcement and motivation in learning contexts, they do not primarily function as an excitatory neurotransmitter in the same way that glutamate does. Serotonin, commonly linked with mood regulation, is less involved in direct learning processes. Norepinephrine, while it can enhance attention and can have a role in memory consolidation, is not primarily categorized as excitatory in the context of learning mechanisms. Therefore, glutamate is rightly identified as the neurotransmitter that is both primarily involved in learning and considered excitatory.

10. Which binocular depth cue is defined by the brain's comparison of two slightly different images from each eye?

A. Binocular convergence

B. Retinal disparity

C. Depth perception

D. Monocular cues

The correct answer is defined by retinal disparity, which is a key binocular depth cue. This phenomenon occurs because each eye perceives the world from a slightly different angle, creating two distinct images. The brain processes these two images, comparing and integrating them to gauge depth and distance. This comparison allows for a three-dimensional understanding of the environment, which is crucial for accurately perceiving the relative distances of objects. Other options, while related to depth perception, do not accurately describe this specific mechanism. Binocular convergence, for instance, involves the inward movement of the eyes as they focus on a closer object, which helps determine distance but does not rely on image comparison. Depth perception encompasses various cues, including both binocular and monocular cues, but it is a broader term that doesn't specifically refer to the process involving image comparison. Monocular cues are depth cues that can be perceived with one eye and do not rely on the disparity between the two images produced by both eyes.