

**Schulz: History of Modern Psychology
Test on Chapter 1, 2, 3**

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PSY 321 History of Modern Psychology
Test on Chapter 1, 2, and 3
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February 10, 2023**

1. What are the academic disciplines that psychology was built upon?

The academic disciplines that psychology was built upon, was from the foundation of academic disciplines of philosophy. Philosophers studied the human conditions of nature and behavior.

2. Define the term *Zeitgeist* and name three factors that are part of it.

Zeitgeist is defined as the intellectual and cultural climate, or spirit of the times. The three factors were the job opportunities for psychologists due to the Wars of World War I and World War II. In addition, the factor of discrimination against women as psychologists, along with the discrimination against Jewish and Afro American students applying for college.

3. Define *determinism* and *empiricism*.

Determinism is defined as the doctrine that every act is determined by past events.

Empiricism is defined as the pursuit of knowledge through the observation of nature and the attribution of all knowledge to experience.

4. What are the differences between John Locke and Rene Descartes in terms of how they believed humans gained knowledge?

John Locke believed human minds were born as clean slate and gained knowledge by experience. Rene Descartes believed that the human mind gained knowledge through innate ideas and derived ideas.

5. Define the *Spirit of Mechanism* and explain why it was important.

The spirit of mechanism was defined as the image of the universe as a great machine. It was during the seventeenth century where machines were being created to replace physical labor. It is important because it was the doctrine that held all natural processes that are mechanically determined and capable of explanation by the laws of physics and chemistry.

6. What was unique about the way that James Mill viewed the human mind and what was his goal?

James Mill believed that the human mind is born as a blank slate by which an experience can be registered. His goal was to determine the experiences that would fill his son's mind through private tutoring.

7. What was the significance of David Kinnebrook's mistake?

Astronomer Royal, Nevil Maskelyne disagreed with David Kinnebrook's observation of the time, required for a star to pass from one point to another. Kinnebrook's observation was slower than Maskelyne's observations. Maskelyne fired David Kinnebrook and as a repercussion of this incident, it led Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel to the study of individual reaction times and the founding of the psychological field of individual differences.

8. Why were the early developments in physiology important to the field of psychology?

Because physiological exploration became experimental, it stimulated and conducted the new psychology.

9. What was extirpation and of what value was it to psychology at that time?

Extirpation was the skill for determining the function of a given part of an animal's cerebrum by removing or destroying it and observing the resulting behavior changes. Research was performed on dead animals to study the brain tissues and discover its cognitive functions.

10. Why did so many of the early developments in psychology happen in Germany?

Germany led the route for the study of experimental psychology and established an educational reform that devoted the principles of academic freedom. England and France denied this great opportunity at the time, only to accept experimental psychology in their universities twenty years later.

11. What was Hermann Helmholtz's major contribution to psychology?

Helmholtz contributed knowledge to the study of the way the human senses operated. He measured the speed of neural impulses and explored on vision and hearing.

12. What is the two-point threshold?

A two-point threshold is when two points of separate sources of stimulation that can be recognized differently.

13. What is the just noticeable difference?

It is the smallest difference detected between two physical stimuli.

14. What two ways did Fechner propose for measuring sensation?

One way was to determine whether the stimulus is present or absent, sensed or not sensed. The second way was to measure the stimulus intensity at which subjects report, that the sensation first occurs. This way is called Absolute threshold. It is the point of sensitivity below, which no sensations can be detected, and above, which sensations can be experienced.

15. According to Fechner what does a change in sensation depend on?

The Absolute threshold is productive but limited because only one value of sensation, its lowest level, can be determined. It was necessary to relate both intensities and specify the full range of stimulus values and their resulting sensation values. Fechner developed and used the differential threshold. It is the point of sensitivity at which the least amount of change in a stimulus gives rise to a change in sensation.

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References

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