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History of Psychology

History of Psychology-Chapter 1,2,3 Test

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

The academic disciplines that psychology was built upon was the studies of mental behavior. Psychology was built upon both philosophy and physiology. The main focus of the built up of psychology focused more on Philosophy dating back to Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. Topics these philosophers studied and is still being studied today include memorization, learning strategies, motivations, and irregular behavior.

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

A Zeitgeist is the intellectual climate of the times. These consist of the topics of economic opportunity, world wars, and prejudice and discrimination. During the economic opportunity, there was a change in psychology during the twentieth century. This was due to economic forces and the opportunities that were given to psychologists. The occurrences of both World War I and II was the prime of Psychologists' career as they were open job opportunities for them working as personnel selection, psychological testing, and engineering psychology. Prejudice and Discrimination was big contextual factor in the Psychology field. Discrimination was targeted by race, religion, and gender. In the Psychology field Women and Jews were the main target of Prejudice and discrimination. From not being able to enter college to not being offered job opportunities in the psychology field.

3. Define determinism and empiricism.

Determinism is the thought that every act is determined or caused by events from the past. An example of Determinism once something is created and put in place we will know the changes that will occur in time. Empiricism is encountering knowledge through observations and experiments. Knowledge from the seventeenth century became the highlighted discovery for scientific exploration.

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

John Locke studied at universities and would soon receive his Bachelor's Degree and soon his Master's degree. After graduating from university, he developed a strong interest in Natural Philosophy. John Locke believed in Cognitive functioning which is the belief that humans are born without knowledge. John Locke believed that knowledge is obtained from Sensation and Reflection. Sensation came from physical sensations from the environment around an individual. Reflection comes from past experiences and impressions. Rene Descartes had many dreams that made a difference in his life where he would have deep thoughts about mathematical and scientific ideas. His dreams called, "The Spirit of Truth" made him more dedicated to mathematics and science. Descartes believed that this was the way an individual can obtain knowledge.

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

The Spirit of Mechanism is the doctrine that made natural processes and is determined by an explanation of the law of physics and chemistry. The Spirit of Mechanism was a time when mechanics were introduced to the work field where machines were used daily. Machines such as pumps, levers, pulley systems, cranes, etc. were used to make people's jobs easier. The idea of Mechanism started in physics by Italian physicist Galileo Galilei and English physicist and mathematician Issac Newton. The Spirit of Mechanism was important because the use of science and technology was being discovered during this time. During this time both observations and experiments were the main focus of science.

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

The way James Mill viewed the human mind was as if the human mind was a machine. James Mill believed in mechanisms and his objective goal was to erase internal and external activities from the human mind and to prove that the knowledge an individual gained was just an illusion and the mind is nothing, but a machine. Mill believed that the mind worked and functioned just like a clock and it worked by physical and internal forces.

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

David Kinnebrook worked as an assistant astronomer in the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England in 1795. He assisted Reverend Nevil Maskelyne, a royal astronomer. David Kinnebrook's mistake began when he made an observation of3 a difference of five-tenths of a second. Maskelyne did not approve of his observations. Kinnebrook tried to continuously convince Maskelyne of his point, but he was continuously denied and after a year, eight months, and twenty-two days he was fired from his job. The significance of David Kinnebrook's mistake was to try to correct the royal astronomer, but was denied and was continuously wronged for his mistake.

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

The early developments in Physiology were important to the field of psychology because of scientific discoveries and work being conducted in the late nineteenth century. German physiologist, Johannes Muller made contributions to both the Physiology field and the psychology fields. Some early physiology factors consist of researching inside and outside the Brain functions and researching the nervous system. The contributions of the brain functions were significant to the field of psychology because of special areas in the brain and the research methods that became well-known in physiological psychology. Research of the nervous system that was important to the field of psychology was Descartes's nerve tube theory and Hartley's theory of vibrations.

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

Extirpation is determining the function of an animal's brain by removing or destroying it to see if there are any behavioral changes. Two methods contributing to Extirpation include the clinical method and electrical stimulation. The clinical method was created by Paul Broca in 1861. The Clinical method focuses on the damaged part of the brain where behavioral conditioning was the main focus for an individual. Electrical stimulation was a technique used to study the brain. This was created by Gustav Fritsch and Eduard Hitzig. Electrical Stimulation was used on dogs and rabbits. This method explored the cerebral cortex.

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

So many early developments in psychology happened in Germany because science started to become widespread around Western Europe in the nineteenth century. German history paved the way for the experimental science of psychology as well as physiology which became established in Germany, but not in other European countries such as France and England.

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

Herman Von Helmholtz was one of the four scientists who were credited with the experimental method of the mind of new psychology along with Ernst Weber, Gustav Theodor Fechner, and Wilhelm Wundt. Herman Von Helmholtz's contributions to psychology consisted of his emphasizing a mechanistic approach to determine if humans' senses functioned like machines. Helmholtz did an investigation the speed of the neural impulse and his research on vision and hearing.

12. What is the two-point threshold?

The Two-point threshold is when two points of stimulation can be distinguished. This experiment was observed by Ernst Weber. The purpose of the two-point threshold was to determine the distance between two points that are spanned and the subject reports feeling two types of sensation feelings.

13. What is the just noticeable difference?

The just-noticeable difference is the determination of the smallest difference between weights. This is another experiment by Weber that determined whether his subjects felt a weight heavier or lighter than the other. This resulted in judgments between the heavier and lighter weights.

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

Two ways Fechner proposed measuring sensation were by using the absolute threshold and differential threshold. The Absolute Threshold determined whether a stimulus was present or absent, sensed or not detected, and measured the intensity of the first stimulus. The Differential difference was another experiment proposed by Fechner and it is when the stimulus is given the least amount of change and sensation to the stimulus.

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

According to Fechner a change in sensation must depend on the change in stimulation. This ties into Fechner's experiment the differential threshold in which the point sensitivity gives the least amount of stimulus which causes a change in sensation.