

Alexy Maurice

Professor

History of Psychology

Week 4

Test on Chapters 1, 2, and 3

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

The academic disciplines that psychology was built upon are information from Greek philosophers who has had an impact on scientific approaches and the growth in this field. The study of historiography also had an effect on how methods are used in expanding psychology. Science was also a very important aspect of psychology because it gave a clear understanding of data, observations and theories.

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

Zeitgeist is known as the spirit of times that gave an intellect on social, economic, and political forces. The three factors that are apart of *zeitgeist* are jobs, wars, and prejudice and discrimination.

3. Define *determinism* and *empiricism*.

Determinism is a belief that every act that occurs is caused by past events. Empiricism is gaining more knowledge through having observations of nature that contributes towards the knowledge of experiences.

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

John Locke's view on how humans gained knowledge is the human mind being born as a blank slate, but through experience and being taught different things then allows humans to acquire knowledge. On the other hand, Rene Descartes believes that humans gain knowledge through the mind influencing the body in a mutual interaction.

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

The Spirit of Mechanism is a great machine that is able to explain the laws of physics and chemistry through natural processes. The Spirit of Mechanism is important because it was able to help find methods of science and measure aspects of the natural universe.

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

James Mill viewed the human mind in a unique way because he explained how knowledge starts from being sensations that occur in a certain order, which reproduced mechanical ideas, due to

the mind not having any creative functioning. James Mill's goal was to demonstrate that the mind is similar to a machine due to the way it operates.

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

The significance of David Kinnebrook's mistake is that later on Bessel, an astronomer was able to see that humans do receive information about the world from the sensations in the organs. The study of sensation was now being looked into after David K's mistake.

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

The early developments in physiology that are important to the field of psychology is the sensation of nerves. Muller discovered that sensory nerves as their own specific energy, therefore the next thing to study was the brain's sensory data which is very important in the field of psychology.

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

Extirpation is a technique that was used to determine the function of an animal's brain by either removing or destroying it, in order to observe the changes in behavior. At the time extirpation was a very important value to psychology because it allowed for a deeper understanding of the brain's functions.

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

So many of the early developments in psychology happen in Germany because they had resources and tools on biological and physiological sciences in order to explore more about the mental lives. In Germany they also had more of an academic freedom which opened up more access to learning about psychology.

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

Hermann Helmholtz's major contribution to psychology is that he was the first empirical measurement of the rate of conduction who powered an electromagnetic device that was able to generate energy for labatory instruments. He was able to do this by working with a motor nerve and recording information on the stimulation between the nerve and the muscle.

12. What is the two-point threshold?

The two-point threshold is a procedure that is able to separate two sources of stimulation that can be distinguished.

13. What is the just noticeable difference?

The just noticeable difference is the smallest distance that is able to be detected between two physical stimuli.

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

The first way that Fechner proposes for measuring sensation is the absolute threshold which is the point of sensitivity below where no sensations can be detected, and above where sensations can be experienced. The second way that Fechner proposes for measuring sensation is the differential threshold which is the point of sensitivity where the least amount of change in a stimulus rises to a change in sensation.

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

According to Fechner a change in sensation depends on psychophysics because it studies the relationship between mental and physical processes.