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Exam #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3)

1. The academic disciplines that psychology was built upon are history and psychology.
2. Zeitgeist means the intellectual climate or spirit of the times. Three factors that are part of Zeitgeist forces are jobs, wars, and prejudice and discrimination.
3. Determinism is the doctrine that every act is determined or caused by past events. Reductionism is the doctrine that explains phenomena on one level in terms of phenomena on another level.
4. John Locke believed humans gained knowledge through cognitive functioning, which was through the mind. He rejected innate ideas that people were born with knowledge, and that the idea of God seemed innate but only because adults were taught religious concepts in childhood. Rene Descartes believed humans gained knowledge through practical concerns. He experimented ways to keep his hair from turning gray and how to maneuver around with wheelchairs.
5. The Spirit of Mechanism was a widespread belief during the 17<sup>th</sup> century that the universe operated as a great machine. Many people believed that all natural things were mechanically determined and were backed up by laws of physics and chemistry. This was important because this idea had a profound impact on scientific thought and behavior.
6. James Mill uniquely viewed the human mind as a mechanism. In other words, he believed that the mind functioned like a clock, in a predictable and mechanical way. The mind was set in operation by external physical forces and run by internal physical forces. His goal was to destroy the illusion of all subjective or mental activities and to demonstrate that the mind was nothing more than a mere machine.
7. The significance of David Kinnebrook's mistake played an important role in the founding of psychology. He lost his job due to the difference of five-tenths of a second. His observations were a little behind than Reverend Nevil Maskelyne, the Royal Astronomer. His errors of measurement was proven wrong because those mistakes were attributable to individual differences among people over which they have no control. Human observation was personal for the results of their experiments and the subjective nature of human perception were processes of sensing and perceiving.
8. The early developments in physiology were important to the field of psychology because it led people to study brain functions by conducting research directly on brain tissue. This led them to determine specific parts of the brain that controlled different cognitive functions. This refined the research methods that became widespread in psychology.
9. Extirpation is a method where the researcher attempts to determine the function of a given part of the brain by removing or destroying it and observing the resulting changes in the animal's behavior. This was valuable because it led to the clinical method, which provided opportunities to examine the damaged area of the brain while the patient was still alive.
10. There were several reasons why many of the early developments in psychology happened in Germany. One reason was that Germans were very receptive and accepting of the

sciences and other subjects such as linguistics, history, logic, and literary criticism and deemed them to be scientific subjects. Another reason was that there was a wave of educational reform in Germany and they were devoted to academic freedom and encouraged their professors to teach whatever they wanted to without restrictions. Other countries were reluctant and opposed experimental psychology because they did not want to insult religion.

11. Hermann Helmholtz's major contribution to psychology was his extensive research on visual and auditory perception. He invented the ophthalmoscope, a device that diagnosed and treated retinal disorders. It was so revolutionary that we still use his invention today. He focused on the applied and practical benefits of scientific research.
12. The two-point threshold is an experiment where the subjects were asked to report one or two points of touching the skin. When the two points of stimulation are closer together, the subjects said they only felt one point. When the two points of stimulation were spread further apart, the subjects felt two different points. This showed that there was a threshold in consciousness.
13. The just noticeable difference was a formulation to determine the smallest difference between weights that could be detected. He had two subjects lift two weights and compare which one was heavier than the other. If there were small differences in weight, his subjects believed they weighed the same. If there were large differences in weight, the subjects could easily tell which one was heavier. This showed that visual discrimination was smaller than in the muscle sense experiments.
14. Fechner proposed two ways for measuring sensation: whether a stimulus is present or absent, sensed or not sensed, and the stimulus intensity at which subjects report that the sensation first occurred, which is the absolute threshold of sensitivity.
15. A change in sensation depends on the change in stimulation. This made it possible to formulate a quantitative relationship between the mental and material worlds. Fechner proposed the absolute threshold and the differential threshold to relate to both intensities.