

HP1test Ch1,2,3 Test.

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

Philosophy and physiology

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

The term Zeitgeist refers to the intellectual climate or spirit of the time. It's climate or thought within science itself. It reflects the main trends of social, philosophical and scientific thought.

3. Define determinism and empiricism.

Determinism: The doctrine that acts are determined by past events.

Empiricism: 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 that human knowledge was acquired through empirical observations and experience. Descartes believed that the origin of knowledge comes from within the mind.

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

Spirit of mechanism refers to understanding the universe as a mechanism that is characterized by regularity and predictability. This mechanism can be observed, measured and explained using the scientific method. This understanding of the world created the concept of a human as a mechanism created by God using the same principles that were used in the world's mechanical structure. Thus, human functioning could be investigated using the same scientific method.

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

For John Stuart Mill mind was nothing more than a machine, that functions as a clock. According to Mill mind is a passive entity that is controlled by the external forces. He denied the existence of the spontaneous actions stating that humans are made to automatically follow the external stimulation. Thus, the concept of free will had no place in Mill's theory.

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

The mistake was investigated by Bessel. He discovered “personal equation” phenomenon. Bessel was able to prove that “there is not always or often an exact correspondence between the nature of an object and our perception of it.” Thus, personal differences that people have no control of can result in errors of measurement.

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

Early physiological research on the brain and behavior influenced psychology by contributing to applying scientific methodologies to the study of human thought and behavior.

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

Extirpation made possible to localize specific brain functions.

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

Experimental Psychology emerged in Germany for a variety of reasons. One of them is German temperament that was of great help in precise description and classification work that biology and physiology required. Besides, science in Germany had a much broader definition while in France and England it was mostly focused on physics and chemistry. German universities became the ideal environment for the new research and applying new methods of studies. They encouraged students experimental research in precisely well-equipped laboratories.

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

Helmholtz investigated the speed of the neural impulse and found that the previous assumption was wrong. Experiments that Helmholtz conducted proved that the speed of the neural impulse could be measured. He recorded the time intervals between stimulation of the nerve and the muscle response and provided first actual measurement of the speed. Helmholtz studies on vision and hearing influenced the new psychology. He contributed to Thomas Young theory of color vision, studied the perception of tones, the nature of harmony and discord and the problem of resonance.

12. What is the two-point threshold?

Two-point threshold is the smallest distance between two points of stimulation on the skin at which the two stimuli are perceived as two stimuli rather than as a single stimulus.

13. What is the just noticeable difference?

In Weber’s research noticeable difference was the smallest difference between weights that could be detected, the amount something changes for the difference to be noticeable.

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

- determining whether the stimulus is present or absent, sensed or not sensed

- measuring the stimulus intensity at which the subject reports the sensation.

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

Sensation depends on the stimulus intensity.