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PSY 321- Professor Flavin

TEST for CH 1, 2, 3

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

The academic principles that psychology was built upon were philosophy and physiology.

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

The term *zeitgeist* means the intellectual or cultural climate of the times. So the driving ideas of the time. The social, economic, and political forces are three factors affecting economic opportunity, world wars, and prejudice and discrimination.

3. Define *determinism* and *empiricism*.

Determinism is the idea that actions are a result of past events. Empiricism is seeking knowledge or information through observation and experimenting.

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

Descartes believed that we gained knowledge innately from our minds and consciousness. Locke believed that we are born with no knowledge (a blank slate) and we acquire knowledge through life experiences and what we are taught.

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

The spirit of mechanism was the idea that all natural processes could be explained by chemistry and physics. This was important because it opened doors to explore and experiment.

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

James Mill viewed the mind as a machine. He applied mechanism to the way we can understand the mind. He thought we could predict the way a mind functions. His goal was to “destroy the illusion” of subjective and psychic capabilities because he strongly believed that the mind was just like a machine. It could be explained and predicted.

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

The significance of his mistake was that it revealed that human observers were going to have individual differences in measures because of personal differences.

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

The early developments of physiology becoming an experimentally oriented discipline was important to psychology because while they were brain mapping, figuring out which parts of the brain controlled which functions, they began to look into which parts controlled cognitive functions as well.

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

Extirpation was the process of destroying parts of the brain and observing the changes in animals to determine that part of the brain's function. It was valuable because it helped with just that, it helped determine what parts of the brain are responsible for each of our functions.

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

For starters, Germany paid psychologists more money. Secondly, they invested in laboratories and equipment, while other places weren't taking psychology that serious. Universities had access to laboratories for experiments and research.

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

Helmholtz invented the ophthalmoscope that we still use today to examine the retina of the eye. His other major contribution was of being able to record nerve impulses, which previous scientists denied being able to do so.

12. What is the two-point threshold?

The two-point threshold is the point at which you are able to determine two different sources of stimulation.

13. What is the Just noticeable difference?

Just noticeable difference is the smallest difference that can be detected between two physical stimuli.

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

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