

Alexy Maurice
Professor Flavin
History of Psychology
Week 8

Test on Chapters 6, 7, 8

Functionalism focuses on the psychological school of thought of the human mind. Functions of the mind consist of consciousness, feelings, memory, and perception, which can be viewed through mental activities, in order to understand how one may adapt to their surroundings. Charles Darwin, who was famous for his theory on natural selection, had an influence on functionalism changing the focus on the structure of consciousness to functions. Chapter 6 speaks on how functionalists began to become interested in the way people adapt and function to different environments. Wundt and Titchener also played a major role in psychology allowing for another point of view on structural psychology. William James, an American psychologist, was known as one of the greatest psychologists the world has known. According to chapter 7, due to James' popularity, and his ideas he had a huge effect on the growth of functional psychology and inspired many people through his work. James had another outlook on consciousness than other famous psychologists viewed. James was known for stream of consciousness, which is an idea that one's consciousness continually flows. Chapter 8 focuses on the legacy that functionalism had in psychology. French psychologist, Alfred Binet, was the first to create an intelligence scale which was able to test mental ability. German psychologist William Stern created the concept of intelligence quotient, known as IQ, which was able to measure the ratio of mental age and chronological age. These inventions led to multiple tests being tested on the American army, groups of people, and public testing. Functionalism played a major role in the growth of psychology, and many important psychologists had a huge inspiration on functionalism.