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Review Sheet for Chapters 5 & 6

Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920)

1. What made him the founder of psychology?

Wundt separated the discipline of psychology from philosophy, created the first lab for this new field, crafted it as a science and even became the very first editor of a psychological magazine.

2. What goal did he announce in his book *Principles of Physiological Psychology*?

He wished to promote psychology as a new field of scientific study.

3. Gedankenmesser

A mind gauge or thought meter Wundt designed which he used to measure the mental process of perceiving 2 stimuli.

4. What 2 important things happened during the Leipzig years?

Wundt started an academic periodical while at Leipzig and more importantly established a laboratory for the new field of psychology.

5. What 2 parts did psychology get divided into?

Social and experimental.

6. What did Wundt believe that psychology should be the study of?

Consciousness

7. Voluntarism

The idea that the mind has the capacity to organize mental contents into higher-level thought processes.

8. Mediate and immediate experience

A mediate experience provides information about something other than the elements of that experience. Immediate experience is unbiased by interpretation.

9. Introspection according to Wundt

The examination of one's own mind to inspect and report on personal thoughts and feelings.

10. Wundt's 3 goals of psychology

- a) To analyze processes into their basic elements
- b) Discover how these elements are synthesized or organized
- c) Determine laws of connection governing the organization of the elements

11. Two elements of psychology

- a) Sensations
- b) Feelings

12. Doctrine of apperception -the law of psychic resultants

The process by which mental elements are organized.

13. Wundt's legacy

He is considered the most important psychologist of all time.

Herman Ebbinghaus (1850-1909)

1. The first to investigate **learning** and **memory** experimentally

2. What did Ebbinghaus learn about nonsense syllables?

He learned that he could use syllables presented in a meaningless series to study memory processes.

3. Forgetting curve

Material is forgotten rapidly in the first few hours after learning and more slowly thereafter.

4. Sentence completion exercise (still used in psychology today)

He used this sentence stem exercise in order to assess the reasoning and intellectual capacity of school children as a part of his studies in human learning and memory. The subject is given the stem and completes the sentence in a way that is meaningful to them.

Franz Brentano (1839-1917)

1. Contrast with Wundt

Wundt's psychology was experimental, Brentano's was empirical. He believed that the primary method for psychology should be observation, not experimentation. He considered an empirical approach to be broader in scope because it accepts data from observation and individual experience as well as from experimentation.

2. What did Brentano argue should be the proper subject matter of psychology?

He argued that the proper subject matter of psychology is mental activity, such as the mental action of seeing rather than the mental content of what a person sees.

3. In what 2 ways did Brentano believe you could study mental acts?

- a) Through memory -recalling the mental act through a particular state
- b) Through imagination -imagining a mental state and observing the accompanying mental processes

Carl Stumpf (1848-1936)

1. Stumpf was a major rival of Wundt -what did he argue should be the primary data of psychology?

He argued that the primary data for psychology are phenomena.

2. What is phenomenology according to Stumpf?

Phenomenology was the introspective method that examined experience as it occurred and did not try to reduce experience to elementary components. It was also an approach to knowledge based on an unbiased description of immediate experience as it occurs, not analyzed or reduced to elements.

Oswald Kulpe (1862-1915)

1. How did Kulpe define psychology?

He defined psychology as the science of the facts of experience that are dependent on the experiencing person.

2. What was Kulpe's systematic experimental introspection?

Systematic experimental introspection involved first performing a complex task and then having the subject provide a retrospective report about their cognitive processes during the task. Subjects undertook some mental processes, such as thinking or judging, after which they examined how they had thought or judged.

3. What did Kulpe mean by imageless thought?

The idea that meanings in thought do not necessarily involve specific images.

Edward Bradford Titchener (1867-1927) and Structuralism

1. Although he claimed to represent Wundt's ideas and theories in America, he did not actually do this -how exactly did he change Wundt's theories?

Titchener focused on mental elements or contents and their mechanical linking through the process of association. His work concentrated on the mental elements themselves and not their organization.

2. What did Titchener view the central task of psychology to be?

He viewed psychology's central task was to discover the nature of the elementary conscious experiences, which means to analyze consciousness into its component parts and thus determine its structure.

3. 1901-1905: During these years he wrote *Experimental Psychology: A Manual Labor Practice*, why is this noteworthy?

The four volume manuals stimulated the growth of laboratory work in psychology in the United States and influenced a generation of experimental psychologists. These textbooks were widely used and translated into five other languages.

4. Titchener's view of women

He encouraged and supported the advancement of women in psychology. He also accepted them into his graduate studies program at Cornell. Over a third of the doctorates he awarded were to women. He even favored the hiring of women faculty members. The very first woman to earn a doctoral degree in psychology was his student. However, he would not permit them to attend his smoke-filled meetings of the Titchener Experimentalists as he thought them too pure to smoke.

5. What did he believe the subject matter of psychology should be?

He believed the subject matter of psychology should be conscious experience as that experience is dependent on the person who is actually experiencing it.

6. What was meant by stimulus error?

This happens when the mental process is confused with the object being observed. The object of our observation is not to be described in everyday language but rather in terms of the elementary conscious content of the experience.

7. For Titchner, what was meant by introspection?

It was self-observation which relied on observers who were rigorously trained to describe the elements of their conscious state rather than reporting the stimulus by its familiar name. In his lab the practice had to be unlearned.

8. Titchener's 3 essential problems of psychology

- a) Reduce conscious processes to their simplest component
- b) Determine laws by which these elements of consciousness are associated
- c) Connect the elements of consciousness with their physiological conditions

9. Titchener's 3 elementary states of consciousness

- a) Sensation

- b) Images
- c) Affective states

10. Titchener presented a list of what he believed to be 44,500 elements of sensation all of which he believed could be categorized according to 4 characteristics basic to all sensations

- a) Quality
- b) Intensity
- c) Duration
- d) Clearness

11. Criticism of Structuralism

Structuralists were accused of artificiality and sterility for attempting to analyze conscious processes into elements. Critics charged that the whole of an experience cannot be captured by any later association or combination of elementary parts. They also argued that experience does not come to us in individual sensations, images or affective states but rather in unified wholes. Something of the conscious experience is inevitably lost in any artificial effort to analyze it or reduce it to its elemental parts. Their definition of psychology was also criticized as being too limited to embrace any new work being done and new directions being explored.

12. Contributions of Structuralism

Structuralists clearly defined the subject matter, conscious experience. Also, their research methods, based on observation, experimentation and measurement were in the highest traditions of science. Additionally, they revealed that the most appropriate method for studying experience and its subject matter was by some form of self-observation.