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PSY 441

Professor Maret

PSY 441 Unit 6 Skinner Essay Questions:

#1: Positive reinforcement presents a positive reinforcer that follows a response, increasing the response rate. An example of positive reinforcement is giving a child a gift card when they get a sound report card because giving the child this gift card will encourage the child to continue to want to get good report cards because they will receive a gift card. Negative reinforcement removes an aversive stimulus that follows a reply that will improve the response rate results. An example of Negative reinforcement is a person taking Tylenol when you have a terrible headache because Tylenol is helping you remove the aversive stimulus, which is the headache. Positive punishment presents an aversive stimulus that follows a response, decreasing the response rate. An example of positive discipline is a teacher telling students they need to pay attention and listen when instructions are given on what to do for their new project due the next class. Negative punishment removes a positive reinforcer that follows a response, reducing the response rate. An example of negative punishment is a parent taking a gaming system like Xbox, PlayStation, or Nintendo Switch away from their child because they lied to you. This is an example of negative punishment because you are taking away a toy that the child enjoys since they lied to you is a form of negative punishment called response cost that Skinner speaks about in our textbook on page 368.

#2: Discrimination is an action in which people learn to behave differently when they are in the presence of a particular situation. An example of discrimination is when a teenager learns to act respectfully to his teachers and everyone in charge at school and not disrespect them by cursing or yelling back at them when they reprimand you. Generalization is a response that continuously happens in a particular situation if corrected. An example of generalization that connects to the last model is that if that teenager is not fixed, the student will be suspended or kicked out of school because this is considered disorderly conduct in school; that can lead to a criminal record down the line which is not good at all because that will affect the person getting into high school and college. It will also affect their getting a job because that will stay on their record. They will be rejected because of this behavior from high schools, colleges/universities, and employment. This will affect their future and whom they will become as an individual.

#3: People create self-control processes that help them improve their behavior. For example, if they know they must work done and can work in a place where it is nosy, they find a quiet place with no distractions so they can get their work done. A person learning to walk away instead of arguing or fighting back with the person is a sign of physical restraint because they are choosing to walk away instead of engaging and causing themselves issues. People drink coffee or energy drinks to stay alert when tired and things need to get done. An example of them choosing a physical aid/aid to help control their behavior. Another technique is when people change their eating habits or healthier lifestyles to help improve their behavior. If a person chooses to count down in their head to help them calm down and control their behavior or even meditate, that is a technique because they are improving their reaction to certain situations.

