AP Psychology
STUDY GUIDE: Introduction to Psychology

Directions: Read selections carefully, select the answer that is best in each case.

1. To say that “psychology is a science” means that:
   A) psychologists study only observable behaviors.
   B) psychologists study thoughts and actions with an attitude of skepticism and derive their conclusions from direct observations.
   C) psychological research should be free of value judgments.
   D) all of the above are true.

2. A psychologist studies the play behavior of third-grade children by watching groups during recess at school. Which type of research is being used?
   A) correlation
   B) case study
   C) experimentation
   D) naturalistic observation

3. Which of the following is true, according to the text?
   A) Because laboratory experiments are artificial, any principles discovered cannot be applied to everyday behaviors.
   B) No psychological theory can be considered a good one until it produces testable predictions.
   C) Psychology’s theories reflect common sense.
   D) Psychology has few ties to other disciplines.

4. Today, psychology is defined as the:
   A) scientific study of mental phenomena.
   B) scientific study of conscious and unconscious activity.
   C) scientific study of behavior.
   D) scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

5. Which of the following research strategies would be best for determining whether alcohol impairs memory?
   A) case study
   B) naturalistic observation
   C) survey
   D) experiment

6. The Greek philosopher who believed that intelligence was inherited was:
   A) Aristotle.
   B) Plato.
   C) Descartes.
   D) Simonides.

7. To say that “psychology is a science” means that:
   A) psychologists study only observable behaviors.
   B) psychologists approach the study of thoughts and actions with careful observation and rigorous analysis.
   C) psychological research should be free of value judgments.
   D) all of the above are true.
8. The first psychology laboratory was established by ________ in the year ________.
   A) Wundt; 1879
   B) James; 1890
   C) Freud; 1900
   D) Watson; 1913

9. If eating saturated fat and the likelihood of contracting cancer are positively correlated, which of
   the following is true?
   A) Saturated fat causes cancer.
   B) People who are prone to develop cancer prefer foods containing saturated fat.
   C) A separate factor links the consumption of saturated fat to cancer.
   D) None of the above is necessarily true.

10. What is the mode of the following distribution of scores: 2, 2, 4, 4, 4, 14?
    A) 2
    B) 4
    C) 5
    D) 6

11. Well-done surveys measure attitudes in a representative subset, or ________, of an entire
    group, or ________.
    A) population; random sample
    B) control group; experimental group
    C) experimental group; control group
    D) random sample; population

12. The scientific attitude of skepticism is based on the belief that:
    A) people are rarely candid in revealing their thoughts.
    B) mental processes can't be studied objectively.
    C) the scientist's intuition about behavior is usually correct.
    D) ideas need to be tested against observable evidence.

13. Which of the following best describes the hindsight bias?
    A) Events seem more predictable before they have occurred.
    B) Events seem more predictable after they have occurred.
    C) A person's intuition is usually correct.
    D) A person's intuition is usually not correct.

14. Bob scored 43 out of 70 points on his psychology exam. He was worried until he discovered that
    most of the class earned the same score. Bob's score was equal to the:
    A) mean.
    B) median.
    C) mode.
    D) range.

15. Dr. Salazar recently completed an experiment in which she compared reasoning ability in a
    sample of females and a sample of males. The means of the female and male samples equaled
    21 and 19, respectively, on a 25-point scale. A statistical test revealed that her results were not
    statistically significant. What can Dr. Salazar conclude?
    A) Females have superior reasoning ability.
    B) The difference in the means of the two samples is probably due to chance variation.
    C) The difference in the means of the two samples is reliable.
    D) None of the above is true.
16. The scientific attitude of humility is based on the idea that:
   A) researchers must evaluate new ideas and theories objectively rather than accept them
      blindly.
   B) scientific theories must be testable.
   C) simple explanations of behavior make better theories than do complex explanations.
   D) researchers must be prepared to reject their own ideas in the face of conflicting evidence.

17. A psychologist who conducts experiments solely intended to build psychology's knowledge base
    is engaged in:
   A) basic research.
   B) applied research.
   C) industrial-organizational research.
   D) clinical research.

18. The seventeenth-century philosopher who believed that the mind is blank at birth and that most
    knowledge comes through sensory experience is:
   A) Plato.
   B) Aristotle.
   C) Descartes.
   D) Locke.

19. One reason researchers base their findings on representative samples is to avoid the false
    consensus effect, which refers to our tendency to:
   A) overestimate the extent to which others share our belief.
   B) falsely perceive a relationship between two events when none exists.
   C) underestimate errors in our judgment.
   D) make all of the above reasoning errors.

20. If shoe size and IQ are negatively correlated, which of the following is true?
   A) People with large feet tend to have high IQs.
   B) People with small feet tend to have high IQs.
   C) People with small feet tend to have low IQs.
   D) IQ is unpredictable based on a person's shoe size.

21. What is the mode of the following distribution: 8, 2, 1, 1, 3, 7, 6, 2, 0, 2?
   A) 1
   B) 2
   C) 3
   D) 7

22. During a dinner conversation, a friend says that the cognitive and behavioral perspectives are
    quite similar. You disagree and point out that the cognitive perspective emphasizes ________,
    whereas the behavioral perspective emphasizes ________.
   A) conscious processes; observable responses
   B) unconscious processes; conscious processes
   C) overt behaviors; covert behaviors
   D) introspection; experimentation

23. The way the mind encodes, processes, stores, and retrieves information is the primary concern
    of the ________ perspective.
   A) neuroscience
   B) evolutionary
   C) social-cultural
   D) cognitive
24. In an experiment to determine the effects of exercise on motivation, exercise is the:
   A) control condition.
   B) intervening variable.
   C) independent variable.
   D) dependent variable.

25. Your roommate is conducting a survey to learn how many hours the typical college student studies each day. She plans to pass out her questionnaire to the members of her sorority. You point out that her findings will be flawed because:
   A) she has not specified an independent variable.
   B) she has not specified a dependent variable.
   C) the sample will probably not be representative of the population of interest.
   D) of all the above reasons.

26. Joe believes that his basketball game is always best when he wears his old gray athletic socks. Joe is a victim of the phenomenon called:
   A) statistical significance.
   B) overconfidence.
   C) illusory correlation.
   D) hindsight bias.

27. The philosophical views of John Locke are to those of René Descartes as _________ is to ________.
   A) nature; nurture
   B) nurture; nature
   C) rationality; irrationality
   D) irrationality; rationality

28. In its earliest days, psychology was defined as the:
   A) science of mental life.
   B) study of conscious and unconscious activity.
   C) scientific study of observable behavior.
   D) scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

29. A researcher was interested in determining whether her students’ test performance could be predicted from their proximity to the front of the classroom. So she matched her students’ scores on a math test with their seating position. This study is an example of:
   A) experimentation.
   B) correlational research.
   C) a survey.
   D) naturalistic observation.

30. When a difference between two groups is “statistically significant,” this means that:
   A) the difference is statistically real but of little practical significance.
   B) the difference is probably the result of sampling variation.
   C) the difference is not likely to be due to chance variation.
   D) all of the above are true.

31. The four families on your block all have annual household incomes of $25,000. If a new family with an annual income of $75,000 moved in, which measure of central tendency would be most affected?
   A) mean
   B) median
   C) mode
   D) standard deviation
32. In psychology, “behavior” is best defined as:
   A) anything a person says, does, or feels.
   B) any action we can observe and record.
   C) any action, whether observable or not.
   D) anything we can infer from a person's actions.

33. The procedure designed to ensure that the experimental and control groups do not differ in any way that might affect the experiment’s results is called:
   A) variable controlling.
   B) random assignment.
   C) representative sampling.
   D) stratification.

34. Which of the following research methods does not belong with the others?
   A) case study
   B) survey
   C) naturalistic observation
   D) experiment

35. Esteban refuses to be persuaded by an advertiser’s claim that people using their brand of gasoline average 50 miles per gallon. His decision probably is based on:
   A) the possibility that the average is the mean, which could be artificially inflated by a few extreme scores.
   B) the absence of information about the size of the sample studied.
   C) the absence of information about the variation in sample scores.
   D) all of the above.

36. Psychologists’ personal values:
   A) have little influence on how their experiments are conducted.
   B) do not influence the interpretation of experimental results because of the use of statistical techniques that guard against subjective bias.
   C) can bias both scientific observation and interpretation of data.
   D) have little influence on investigative methods but a significant effect on interpretation.

37. After detailed study of a gunshot wound victim, a psychologist concludes that the brain region destroyed is likely to be important for memory functions. Which research strategy did the psychologist use to deduce this?
   A) the case study
   B) a survey
   C) correlation
   D) experimentation

38. Which of the following is not a basic research strategy used by psychologists?
   A) description
   B) replication
   C) experimentation
   D) correlation

39. The football team’s punter wants to determine how consistent his punting distances have been during the past season. He should compute the:
   A) mean.
   B) median.
   C) mode.
   D) standard deviation.
40. In defining psychology, the text notes that psychology is most accurately described as a:
   A) way of asking and answering questions.
   B) field engaged in solving applied problems.
   C) set of findings related to behavior and mental processes.
   D) nonscientific approach to the study of mental disorders.

41. You decide to test your belief that men drink more soft drinks than women by finding out
whether more soft drinks are consumed per day in the men's dorm than in the women's dorm.
Your belief is a(n) ________, and your research prediction is a(n) ________.
   A) hypothesis; theory
   B) theory; hypothesis
   C) independent variable; dependent variable
   D) dependent variable; independent variable

42. Rashad, who is participating in a psychology experiment on the effects of alcohol on perception,
is truthfully told by the experimenter that he has been assigned to the “high-dose condition.”
What is wrong with this experiment?
   A) There is no control condition.
   B) Rashad's expectations concerning the effects of “high doses” of alcohol on perception may
      influence his performance.
   C) Knowing that Rashad is in the “high-dose” condition may influence the experimenter's
      interpretations of Rashad's results.
   D) Both b. and c. are correct.

43. Which type of research would allow you to determine whether students' college grades
accurately predict later income?
   A) case study
   B) naturalistic observation
   C) experimentation
   D) correlation

44. Who introduced the early school of structuralism?
   A) Edward Titchener
   B) Wilhelm Wundt
   C) William James
   D) Mary Whiton Calkins

45. The psychological views of William James are to those of Edward Titchener as ________ is to
   ________.
   A) nature; nurture
   B) nurture; nature
   C) structuralism; functionalism
   D) functionalism; structuralism

46. To ensure that other researchers can repeat their work, psychologists use:
   A) control groups.
   B) random assignment.
   C) double-blind procedures.
   D) operational definitions.
47. Concerning the major psychological perspectives on behavior, the text author suggests that:
   A) researchers should work within the framework of only one of the perspectives.
   B) only those perspectives that emphasize objective measurement of behavior are useful.
   C) the different perspectives often complement one another; together, they provide a fuller
      understanding of behavior than provided by any single perspective.
   D) psychologists should avoid all of these traditional perspectives.

48. Terrence wants to talk to a professional to help him cope with some academic challenges he's
    facing. You recommend that he contact a(n):
   A) industrial/organizational psychologist.
   B) developmental psychologist.
   C) counseling psychologist.
   D) psychiatrist.

49. What is the mean of the following distribution of scores: 2, 3, 7, 6, 1, 4, 9, 5, 8, 2?
   A) 5
   B) 4
   C) 4.7
   D) 3.7

50. Who wrote the early textbook *Principles of Psychology*?
    A) Wilhelm Wundt
    B) Ivan Pavlov
    C) Jean Piaget
    D) William James

51. Which of the following procedures is an example of the use of a placebo?
    A) In a test of the effects of a drug on memory, a participant is led to believe that a harmless
       pill actually contains an active drug.
    B) A participant in an experiment is led to believe that a pill, which actually contains an active
       drug, is harmless.
    C) Participants in an experiment are not told which treatment condition is in effect.
    D) Neither the participants nor the experimenter knows which treatment condition is in effect.

52. A professor constructs a questionnaire to determine how students at the university feel about
    nuclear disarmament. Which of the following techniques should be used in order to survey a
    random sample of the student body?
    A) Every student should be sent the questionnaire.
    B) Only students majoring in psychology should be asked to complete the questionnaire.
    C) Only students living on campus should be asked to complete the questionnaire.
    D) From an alphabetical listing of all students, every tenth (or fifteenth, e.g.) student should be
       asked to complete the questionnaire.

53. Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow are most closely associated with:
    A) cognitive psychology.
    B) behaviorism.
    C) psychodynamic theory.
    D) humanistic psychology.

54. Which of the following is the measure of variation that is most affected by extreme scores?
    A) mean
    B) standard deviation
    C) mode
    D) range
55. To prevent the possibility that a placebo effect or researchers’ expectations will influence a study’s results, scientists employ:
   A) control groups.
   B) experimental groups.
   C) random assignment.
   D) the double-blind procedure.

56. Who would be most likely to agree with the statement, “Psychology should investigate only behaviors that can be observed”?
   A) Wilhelm Wundt
   B) Sigmund Freud
   C) John B. Watson
   D) William James

57. In a test of the effects of air pollution, groups of students performed a reaction-time task in a polluted or an unpolluted room. To what condition were students in the unpolluted room exposed?
   A) experimental
   B) control
   C) randomly assigned
   D) dependent

58. Which perspective emphasizes the learning of observable responses?
   A) behavioral
   B) social-cultural
   C) neuroscience
   D) cognitive

59. In generalizing from a sample to the population, it is important that:
   A) the sample be representative.
   B) the sample be nonrandom.
   C) the sample not be too large.
   D) all of the above be true.

60. What is the median of the following distribution: 10, 7, 5, 11, 8, 6, 9?
   A) 6
   B) 7
   C) 8
   D) 9
Answer Key

1. B  
2. D  
3. B  
4. D  
5. D  
6. B  
7. B  
8. A  
9. D  
10. B  
11. D  
12. D  
13. B  
14. C  
15. B  
16. D  
17. A  
18. D  
19. A  
20. B  
21. B  
22. A  
23. D  
24. C  
25. C  
26. C  
27. B  
28. A  
29. B  
30. C  

31. A  
32. B  
33. B  
34. D  
35. D  
36. C  
37. A  
38. B  
39. D  
40. A  
41. B  
42. D  
43. D  
44. A  
45. D  
46. D  
47. C  
48. C  
49. C  
50. D  
51. A  
52. D  
53. D  
54. D  
55. D  
56. C  
57. B  
58. A  
59. A  
60. C