

2.3 Conditioning and behaviour

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS classical conditioning 经典条件作用 • operant conditioning 操作性条件作用
• reinforcement 强化 • punishment 惩罚

Objective

Distinguish classical and operant conditioning and accurately use reinforcement and punishment.

You must be able to:

- compare associations with consequences
- distinguish positive/negative from reinforcement/punishment
- explain why negative reinforcement increases behaviour

1 Worked examples

■ Ask what changes behaviour

Classical conditioning 经典条件作用 learns an association: a neutral cue becomes linked to a response. **Operant conditioning** 操作性条件作用 changes behaviour through its consequences.

Reinforcement 强化 increases behaviour; punishment decreases it. Positive means added; negative means removed. Removing an unpleasant alarm when a seatbelt is fastened is negative reinforcement because seatbelt use increases.

2 Practice

2.1 State whether classical conditioning is mainly about associations or consequences.[1]

2.2 State whether reinforcement increases or decreases behaviour. [1]

2.3 Explain why negative reinforcement is not punishment.

[2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A teacher removes extra homework when a class submits work on time. Explain this using operant conditioning.

[4]

3.2 Compare classical and operant conditioning.

[4]

Solutions

2.1

- Associations.

2.2

- Increases.

2.3

- Negative means something is removed.
- Reinforcement increases behaviour, while punishment decreases it.

3.1

- Submitting work on time is the behaviour.
- Extra homework is removed after that behaviour.
- Removing something unpleasant is negative.
- Timely submission is likely to increase, so it is reinforcement.

3.2

- Both explain how behaviour can be learned.
- Classical conditioning links a neutral cue with an existing response.
- Operant conditioning changes behaviour through consequences.
- The first is associations; the second is outcomes.