

16. LR.1 · Conditioning, reinforcement and observational learning

Starter Quiz ·

GRE Subject Test · GRE Psychology

Name: _____ Score: _____

1. A token is delivered after a varying, unpredictable number of button presses. Which schedule is specified?
 - ☐ variable ratio
 - ☐ continuous reinforcement
 - ☐ fixed ratio
 - ☐ fixed interval
2. After extinction and a rest, the conditioned response briefly returns. This is
 - ☐ generalisation
 - ☐ discrimination
 - ☐ acquisition
 - ☐ spontaneous recovery
3. Negative reinforcement decreases the behaviour it follows.
 - ☐ True ☐ False
4. A dog conditioned to one tone also salivates to similar tones. This is stimulus _____.

5. Two groups receive the same tone–food pairings, but only one also receives food without the tone. What differs most directly?
 - ☐ The count of the stated tone–food pairings.
 - ☐ Whether tones can ever be detected.
 - ☐ The tone’s relation to food relative to the background.
6. In a stated example, submitting a task stops a reminder and future submitting increases. What is the operant classification for submitting?
 - ☐ Positive punishment
 - ☐ Negative punishment
 - ☐ Negative reinforcement
7. A stimulus must be a reinforcer simply because someone intended it as a reward.
 - ☐ True ☐ False

8. A point is delivered after random time intervals regardless of whether a button is pressed. Which conclusion is justified?
- ☐ It must be variable interval because time varies.
 - ☐ This alone does not specify a variable-interval response contingency.
 - ☐ It must be variable ratio because delivery is unpredictable.
9. A graph shows cumulative responding while reinforcers are still delivered. Which claim goes beyond the graph alone?
- ☐ It establishes which schedule will always resist extinction most.
 - ☐ Rising parts show accumulated responses.
 - ☐ Flat parts show pauses.
10. Which approach best fits the lesson?
- ☐ Identify the relation and target response, then use the measured outcome and programmed rule.
 - ☐ Use intended pleasantness to decide every operant label.
 - ☐ Infer the schedule from a familiar activity's name alone.

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Answers ·

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1. **variable ratio**

The requirement counts responses and varies across reinforcers: variable ratio. The rule identifies the schedule without assuming a universal extinction ranking.

2. **spontaneous recovery**

Spontaneous recovery is a return of the extinguished response after a rest. It challenges complete erasure as an inference from the earlier low response; it does not specify every detail of the remaining learning.

3. **False**

Negative reinforcement increases the specified response through removal, prevention or postponement of an aversive stimulus. A decrease would not meet the reinforcement definition.

4. **generalisation**

Similar stimuli evoke the CR.

5. **The tone's relation to food relative to the background.**

Food outside the tone changes the cue–outcome relation, even when the stated pairings match. Detection and other controls still need consideration.

6. **Negative reinforcement**

The reminder is removed and submitting increases. Name the target response before assigning the label.

7. **False**

A reinforcement claim concerns the response–consequence relation and an increase in that response, rather than intention alone.

8. **This alone does not specify a variable-interval response contingency.**

An interval reinforcement schedule requires an eligible response after the interval. This example explicitly makes delivery independent of responding.

9. **It establishes which schedule will always resist extinction most.**

Extinction requires a different condition in which the relevant reinforcement is discontinued. A training curve alone does not establish a universal extinction ranking.

10. **Identify the relation and target response, then use the measured outcome and programmed rule.**

Definitions and explicit comparisons are more reliable than intention, activity labels or a universal ranking.