Sample Psy 300 Test

This sample test is presented to show you the types of questions that you can expect on the tests you take in my Psychology 300 classes. I will not post other sample tests that cover other material. This should suffice to help you see how my tests are structured. During the fall and spring semesters, each of the tests will cover three chapters, and will include 45 questions (15 questions per chapter), except for the last test which will only cover the last two chapters and include 30 questions. During the summer, each test will cover three chapters, and will include 45 questions.

You will need a Scantron form for each test (#882).

1. Wilhelm Wundt defined psychology as:
   A) a new branch of physiology.
   B) the study of paranormal phenomenon.
   C) a branch of philosophy, not science.
   D) the study of consciousness.

2. Which of the following statements about behaviorism is TRUE?
   A) B. F. Skinner borrowed the introspection technique from structuralism for use in his methods for behaviorism.
   B) Behaviorism was based on Margaret Washburn’s animal research showing the importance of animal consciousness.
   C) Behaviorism emphasized the importance of unconscious behaviors.
   D) John B. Watson argued that consciousness was not a usable concept and considered consciousness to be a concept related to superstition and magic.

3. Which of the following approaches was referred to as the “third force” in American psychology?
   A) psychoanalysis
   B) functionalism
   C) humanistic psychology
   D) cognitive psychology

4. One of the pie charts presented in chapter 1 listed the specialty areas of psychologists who had recently received their doctorates. Which specialty area was selected most often?
   A) industrial and organizational psychology
   B) school psychology
   C) clinical psychology
   D) biological psychology
5. Professor Anderson is interested in how family relationships change over time. During the last two decades, he has kept track of and repeatedly surveyed the same group of 3,000 participants about changes in their relationship with their parents and siblings. Professor Anderson is most likely a _____ psychologist.
   A) personality
   B) health
   C) cognitive
   D) developmental

6. Which of the following best represents psychology's basic goals?
   A) investigate and treat mental illness
   B) describe, explain, predict, and influence behavior
   C) listen to, counsel, and console people with problems
   D) apply the findings of animal research to abnormal behavior

7. A case study is a(n):
   A) in-depth investigation of a single individual or a small group of individuals, often involving information from a wide variety of sources.
   B) method of determining whether an experiment reflects natural conditions.
   C) survey involving only people who are likely to confirm the experimenter's hypothesis.
   D) study involving multiple subjects who all suffer from the same psychological problems and are given the same experimental treatment.

8. Several correlational studies all point to the same basic conclusion: the more time that students spend playing violent video games, the lower their grade point average tends to be. This means that:
   A) playing violent video games causes low grades.
   B) low grades cause students to play violent video games.
   C) these two factors seem to be correlated in a systematic way.
   D) the researchers have discovered an illusory correlation.

9. In the natural experiment by Gary Evans studying the effect of noise exposure on children, the independent variable was _____ and the dependent variable was _____.
   A) aircraft noise; physical and physiological indicators of stress
   B) physical and psychological indicators of stress; aircraft noise
   C) physical indicators of stress; psychological indicators of stress
   D) living in New York City; living in Billings, Montana
10. Which paradigm of psychology was the strongest and most popular in the U.S. in 1950?
   A) psychodynamic
   B) behavioral
   C) cognitive
   D) humanistic

11. Which of the following is TRUE regarding individuals who do some type of psychological therapy?
   A) In most states in the U.S., clinical psychologists can prescribe medication.
   B) Most people acting as therapists have only a bachelor's degree and do not require a license.
   C) Counseling psychologists tend to charge more money and to be more educated than other therapists.
   D) Clinical psychologists and psychiatrists often help the same type of patients: those with more severe mental illnesses

12. Pamela observes that people don't sit next to strangers on the subway when there are empty seats available. She notices this also happens on the bus, in the movie theater, and in the cafeteria. Pamela's observations suggest that people's behavior in these situations is governed by:
   A) social norms.
   B) stereotypes.
   C) prejudice.
   D) social facilitation.

13. The common tendency in individualistic cultures to attribute the behavior of others to internal, personal characteristics, while ignoring or underestimating the effects of external, situational factors is most accurately called:
   A) stereotyping.
   B) prejudice.
   C) altruism.
   D) the fundamental attribution error.

14. The _____ refers to the tendency to attribute successful outcomes of one's own behavior to internal causes and unsuccessful outcomes to external, situational causes.
   A) self-serving bias
   B) fundamental attribution error
   C) social facilitation effect
   D) rule of reciprocity
15. Denise went on a diet to lose some weight. When she went to lunch with some co-workers, she hesitated when it was her turn to order. Finally, she ordered the burger and fries instead of the salad and yogurt. She then justified her choice by telling herself that some protein every day is important for good health. Denise’s tendency to focus on the positive aspects of her choice and minimize the negative aspects illustrates which of the following concepts in action?
   A) groupthink
   B) cognitive dissonance
   C) the self-effacing bias
   D) fundamental attribution error

16. The tendency to see members of out-groups as very similar to each other is called:
   A) communal bias.
   B) the bystander effect.
   C) the self-serving bias.
   D) the out-group homogeneity effect.

17. In a series of variations of his obedience experiments, Milgram found that the teachers were LEAST likely to deliver high levels of shocks when:
   A) the experiment was conducted at a prestigious institution such as Yale.
   B) there was physical and psychological separation between the teacher and the learner.
   C) teachers were free to choose the level of shock.
   D) the experimenter took responsibility for the learner's well-being.

18. Kitty Genovese was murdered outside her New York City apartment. This tragic event led to intense psychological research on:
   A) attribution.
   B) altruism and prosocial behavior.
   C) social facilitation.
   D) cognitive dissonance.
19. A social psychology experiment at a university in Minnesota had two conditions. In the first condition, students in a tug-of-war contest were led to believe they were alone when pulling on the rope. Students in the second condition were led to believe that others were pulling with them on the same rope. According to the information in your text, it is likely that:
A) social loafing will occur in the first condition and social facilitation will occur in the second.
B) deindividuation will occur in both situations.
C) people will exert more effort in the first condition compared to the second condition.
D) social facilitation will occur in the first condition and social striving will occur in the second.

20. Which of the following factors appeared to have the greatest impact on the level of obedience displayed by Milgram's subjects?
A) the presence of an authority figure
B) the personality characteristics of the teacher
C) the gender of the subjects
D) the amount of incentive given to participate in the experiment

21. Conformity studies done in more recent years indicate that Americans are ________________ conforming than they were during the 1960's.
A) more
B) less
C) much less
D) no more, and no less

22. Cognitive dissonance research suggests that
A) attitudes are generally good predictors of behavior.
B) when a person has extremely strong attitudes they will be good predictors of behavior.
C) attitudes aren't really good predictors of behavior, nor are behaviors really good predictors of attitudes.
D) behaviors are generally good predictors of attitudes.

23. The emphasis on biological processes is to ________ as the emphasis on learning and conscious cognitive processes is to ________.
A) the trait perspective; the social cognitive perspective
B) the psychoanalytic perspective; the humanistic perspective
C) the humanistic perspective; the psychoanalytic perspective
D) the social cognitive perspective; the trait perspective
24. According to Freud, the ego is guided by the _____, whereas the id is guided by the _____.
   A) latent content; manifest content  
   B) latency stage; genital stage  
   C) reality principle; pleasure principle  
   D) pleasure principle; archetypes

25. Freud believed that the Oedipus complex produces _____ in little boys and _____ in little girls.
   A) identification; sublimation  
   B) latency; fixation  
   C) the inferiority complex; the superiority complex  
   D) castration anxiety; penis envy

26. Which of the following is NOT a valid criticism of Freud's theory of personality?
   A) Freud based his theory on self-analysis and on his analysis of a small number of patients.  
   B) Many of Freud's psychoanalytic concepts are so vague that they are impossible to objectively measure or confirm.  
   C) Freud did not keep detailed records of his therapy sessions with his patients, so it is impossible to objectively verify his observations.  
   D) Freud's lifelong addiction to cocaine distorted his thinking.

27. Identify the correct way in which the social cognitive perspective on personality differs from both the psychoanalytic and the humanistic perspectives.
   A) The social cognitive perspective stresses the importance of unconscious influences.  
   B) The social cognitive perspective stresses the importance of individual differences.  
   C) The social cognitive perspective emphasizes insights derived from case studies.  
   D) The social cognitive perspective emphasizes information derived from empirical research and experimental data.

28. When David is asked to describe his best friend Josh, he responds: “Josh is very friendly, pretty intelligent, and a really nice guy. He seems laid-back, but he actually works hard at keeping up with his college classes. He’s a lot of fun because he’s always ready to try something new.” David's description of his friend's personality would be most consistent with which of the following approaches to personality?
   A) psychoanalytic  
   B) social cognitive  
   C) humanistic  
   D) trait
29. The most widely accepted trait theory today is called:
   A) the Sixteen Personality Factor Model (16 PF).
   B) the five-factor model of personality.
   C) the reciprocal determinism model of personality.
   D) the interaction model.

30. Which of the following is NOT an important weakness of the trait approach to personality?
   A) Trait theories have no empirical research support.
   B) Trait theories don't really explain how individual differences develop.
   C) Trait theories label and describe individual differences, but they do not explain personality.
   D) Trait theories only deal with one aspect of personality and do not address other issues, such as motivation, growth and development, or the role of the unconscious.

31. What type of personality test involves the interpreting of an ambiguous image and is used to assess unconscious motives and conflicts?
   A) a projective test
   B) a self-report inventory
   C) an aptitude test
   D) an achievement test

32. According to your textbook, the most widely used self-report inventory is the:
   A) Thematic Apperception Test, or TAT.
   B) Rorschach Inkblot Test.
   C) Children's Apperception Test, or CAT.
   D) Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, or MMPI.

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