

5. [16 marks]

(2016:ATAR:5)

- (a) Mrs Jackson gives her students a stamp every time they are well behaved. Once 20 stamps are collected, students may choose a reward from the prize box. Name the technique used for modifying the students' behaviour. (1 mark)

Mrs Jackson is using a token economy

Monica's cat comes running into the house as soon as Monica opens the refrigerator to prepare its food.

- (b) (i) Name the type of learning that this involves. (1 mark)
Operant conditioning
- (ii) State two reasons for your answer to part (b)(i). (2 marks)
One: the cat has learnt that the fridge noise normally leads to food
Two: the behavior is not a reflex – it is a learned behaviour
- (c) Define these terms in relation to learning theory.
- (i) reinforcement (1 mark)
consequences used to increase the behavior occurring
- (ii) punishment (1 mark)
consequences used to decrease the occurrences of the behaviour
- (d) Andrew wants his son Jimmy to clean up his room. Give one example of how he might achieve this using
- (i) positive reinforcement. (1 mark)
gives Jimmy a lolly when he cleans his room
- (ii) negative reinforcement. (1 mark)
Jimmy doesn't have to clean the dog poop if he cleans his room
- (e) Andrew also wants Jimmy to stop swearing. Give one example of how he might achieve this using
- (i) positive reinforcement. (1 mark)
Jimmy gets \$5 a day everyday he doesn't swear
- (ii) negative reinforcement. (1 mark)
Jimmy doesn't have to go to bed early if he doesn't swear that day

Violet experienced severe nausea and vomiting from eating contaminated food from a market. The market was decorated with coloured lanterns. Violet now feels sick every time she sees coloured lanterns.

- (f) (i) The process of learning in Violet's experience is shown below. The unconditioned response is nausea/vomiting. Identify the remaining variables. (4 marks)

Neutral stimulus	+	Unconditioned stimulus	→	Unconditioned response
Coloured lanterns		Contaminated food		Nausea/vomiting
		Conditioned stimulus	→	Conditioned response
		Coloured lanterns		Nausea/vomiting

In Pavlov's original experiments, the conditioned response was produced after multiple pairings of the neutral stimulus and unconditioned stimulus. However, Violet learned the association with a single pairing.

- (ii) Outline what learning theorists believe about why some associations are learned very quickly. (2 marks)
Learning theorists believe we learn some associations very quickly if the unconditioned response is very powerful and our bodies are prepared to learn these more quickly to ensure our survival.