Creelman Exam Questions: Psychology, ATAR Course Units 3 and 4 2021

8. [14 marks]

(2020:ATAR:6)

Jarra has recently started to collect rubbish off the lawn without being asked to do so. Her mother claims that it is through operant conditioning that Jarra has learned this behaviour.

(a) Describe 'operant conditioning'.

(2 marks)

Operant conditioning is the learning of a behaviour through a pattern of reward or punishment.

(b) Name two ways in which operant conditioning encouraged Jarra to continue with the behaviour. Explain and apply them to Jarra's learned behaviour. (6 marks)

Name	Negative Reinforcement	Positive Reinforcement
Explain	The removal of an aversive stimulus as a reward to encourage the behaviour to continue	The addition of an desired stimulus as a reward to encourage the behaviour to continue
Apply	Jarra doesn't have to do the dinner dishes on days she collects the rubbish	Jarra gets a second serve of dessert when she collects the rubbish

Jarra's mother asked why Jarra had changed her behaviour. Jarra said she had watched the girl across the road collecting rubbish and being given pocket money in return.

(c) Name the theory or process of learning that Jarra is discussing.

(1 mark)

Observational learning

Farrah is scared of goldfish after an allergic reaction as a child.

(d) Complete the table below by using your knowledge of classical conditioning.

(5 marks)

Neutral stimulus – Goldfish

Unconditioned stimulus - allergic reaction

Unconditioned response - fear

Conditioned stimulus - goldfish

Conditioned response - fear