**AP Psychology Practice Test 7 Language & Cognition**

Question 1

After suffering a brain injury in a car accident, Russell cannot form new memories. He can, however, remember his life experiences before the accident. Russell's memory problem most clearly illustrates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. Repression

B. Retroactive interference

C. Source amnesia

D. Intentional forgetting

E. Encoding failure

Question 2

On the first day of her new job, Jess is introduced to eight new coworkers. Moments later, she can only remember the names of the first three and last two coworkers. Her experience illustrates what memory-based psychological concept?

A. Overwhelmed encoding

B. Source amnesia

C. The spacing effect

D. The next-in-line effect

E. Serial position effect

Question 3

In attempting to find and purchase high-quality makeup products, Carla reminds herself that the most expensive brands are the best. Carla's self-reminder illustrates the use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. An algorithm

B. Cognitive dissonance

C. A heuristic

D. The framing effect

E. Functional fixedness

Question 4

Which of the following is an example of a 2-year-old Sophia's overextension in language? A. Misspelling words

B. Mispronouncing words

C. Saying "doggie" for every animal with four legs and a tail

D. Saying "feed you" when meaning "feed me"

E. Saying "I seed" for past tense instead of "I saw"

Question 5

What is the highest need on Maslow's hierarchy?

A. Belongingness needs

B. Physiological needs

C. Esteem Needs

D. Safety and security

E. Self-actualization

Question 6

What are phonemes?

A. Gaps between speech sounds that indicate word boundaries

B. Measurement units of acoustic energy

C. Syllables

D. The smallest meaningful units of sound in speech

E. The smallest structural units of sound in speech

Question 7

Who developed the hypothesis of linguistic determinism? That is, that language patterns play a dominant role in shaping a person's thoughts and behavior.

A. Freud

B. Gardner

C. Somerville

D. Sternberg

E. Whorf

Question 8

A robin is judged to be a better example of a bird than some others, a parrot or flamingo, for example. Therefore, a robin would be considered a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of birds.

A. Ideal

B. Imprint

C. Prototype

D. Reciprocal

E. Representative heuristic

Question 9

On Monday, the meteorologist forecast a 20% chance of rain, so Jose took his umbrella to work. On Wednesday, the meteorologist reported an 80% chance of sunshine, so Jose left his umbrella at home. Jose's behavior illustrates what psychological concept?

A. Belief perseverance

B. Confirmation bias

C. Framing effect

D. Overconfidence

E. Representative heuristic

Question 10

The correlation between scores obtained on two halves of a single test yields information about the test's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. Central tendency of scores

B. Frequency distribution of scores

C. Reliability

D. Standard error of measurement

E. Validity

Question 11

Which linguist is most closely associated with the concept of universal grammar? He famously challenged behaviorist accounts of language acquisition.

A. Broca

B. Chomsky

C. Lorenz

D. Wernicke

E. Whorf

Question 12

In order to determine if someone has just said "bark" or "park," you have to discriminate the initial sound, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. Morpheme

B. Phoneme

C. Syllable

D. Phonic

E. Differentiated emphasis

Question 13

Bill uses a "rule of thumb" when solving a maze quickly on an iPad app. He is using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A. An algorithm

B. A mental representation

C. A mental set

D. A heuristic

E. A shortcut

Question 14

People tend to seek out and find more convincing evidence that is consistent with an already-held view. This pattern, which can lead one astray, is known as what?

A. Actor-observer effect

B. Confirmation bias

C. Fundamental attribution error

D. Hindsight bias

E. Self-serving bias

Question 15

Which of the following is considered to be a possible cause of the misinformation effect?

A. Inadequate encoding

B. Interference

C. Priming

D. Proactive interference

E. Source confusion

Question 16

You would be more likely to agree to a surgery with a 50% success rate than a 50% failure rate. What psychological concept illustrates this concept?

A. Algorithms

B. Confirmation bias

C. Framing effect

D. Hindsight bias

E. Representative heuristic

Question 17

If you ask most Americans where they were when they learned about the 9/11 attack, you will likely hear a vivid, detailed recollection. This is an example of a somewhat controversial phenomenon called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. Encoding specificity

B. Flashbulb memory

C. Intentional memory creation

D. Shock-induced selective attention

E. The Stroop effect

Question 18

Interference theory and decay theory are contrasting ideas to explain what memory process?

A. Dreaming

B. Encoding errors

C. Forgetting

D. Mental imagery

E. Prosopagnosia

Question 19

Mary scores at the 87th percentile. In testing, this mean \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.:

A. 87 percent of those taking the test were above her

B. 87 percent of those taking the test were equal to or below her

C. 13 percent of those taking the test were equal to her

D. 13 percent of those taking the test were below her

E. She has met the cognitive label for an intellectual disability

**Answers and Explanations**

Question 1 Explanation:

The correct answer is (E). Encoding failure refers to the brain's occasional inability to create a memory link. This happens for a number of reasons, with trauma being the most common cause. An encoding failure prevents the brain from creating and storing new memories.

Question 2 Explanation:

The correct answer is (E). The serial position effect is the tendency of a person to recall the first and last items in a series more easily than the middle items in a series.

Question 3 Explanation:

The correct answer is (C). A heuristic is a mental shortcut that helps us make decisions and judgments quickly and efficiently. However, the efficiency of a heuristic comes at a cost as they are also prone to errors.

Question 4 Explanation:

The correct answer is (C). Overextension is the usage of a categorical term, like "doggie," to describe everything similar to the object being described. In this case, Sophia is extending the concept of "dog" to include animals that do not fit in the "dog" category.

Question 5 Explanation:

The correct answer is (E). Maslow's hierarchy of needs from lowest to highest (base to top of pyramid): physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and finally self-actualization.

Question 6 Explanation:

The correct answer is (E). Phonemes are the smallest structural units of sound, regardless of meaning. Morphemes, on the other hand, are the smallest meaningful units of sound.

Question 7 Explanation:

The correct answer is (E). The Whorf hypothesis holds that language patterns play a dominant role in shaping thoughts and behavior.

Question 8 Explanation:

The correct answer is (C). A robin is considered the prototypical bird because it possesses most features that are held by most birds.

Question 9 Explanation:

The correct answer is (C). Changes in the framing of a scenario can influence decisions. In this case, Jose responded favorably to both forecasts, but his decision was different based on the framing of the forecast. The chance of rain is the same in both forecasts, but because of the wording used by the meteorologist, Jose decided differently in each case. This is an example of the framing effect.

Question 10 Explanation:

The correct answer is (C). Reliability is a measure of the ability to replicate the test in subsequent administrations. Reliability is often determined by a correlation coefficient. The closer the correlation coefficient is to ?1 or 1, the more reliable the test is.

Question 11 Explanation:

The correct answer is (B). Noam Chomsky used the term, "universal grammar" to describe the innate language rules he suggested to explain language learning.

Question 12 Explanation:

The correct answer is (B). A phoneme is the smallest structural unit of speech. This means that it is the smallest unit of speech that affects what word you hear. Phonemes may not possess meaning on their own, unlike morphemes, which represent the smallest unit of meaningful sound.

Question 13 Explanation:

The correct answer is (D). Bill's rule of thumb is a heuristic, which helps him reach a solution efficiently. Heuristics are distinguished from the less efficient (but more accurate) algorithms. Heuristics are commonly thought of as "shortcuts."

Question 14 Explanation:

The correct answer is (B). In a confirmation bias, we seek out information that confirms our pre-held beliefs and ignore information that misaligns with those beliefs.

Question 15 Explanation:

The correct answer is (E). If an individual fails to discriminate whether a fact was part of an original event or part of a subsequent discussion, he or she might be experiencing confusion about the source of the event. This source confusion then leads to an inability to accurately describe the original event in question.

Question 16 Explanation:

The correct answer is (C). Framing effects describe how the phrasing of a problem influences the decision that is reached. In this case, even though the outcome is the same, framing the surgery in a positive light using the word "success" results in a more agreeable surgery than the same surgery described as failing 50% of the time.

Question 17 Explanation:

The correct answer is (B). Some psychologists have hypothesized that the detail of flashbulb memories are the result of a different brain system for emotional events, but others argue that many of the details are inaccurate and the ability to easily recall these events is more a result of retelling the story with some level of consistency over time (rehearsal) instead.

Question 18 Explanation:

The correct answer is (C). These are the two most prominent explanations of forgetting. Decay theory suggests that memories are forgotten with mere passage of time, while interference theory suggests that memories are only forgotten when displaced by new memories.

Question 19 Explanation:

The correct answer is (B). Mary's score in the 87th percentile means that 87 percent of those taking the test were equal to or below her.