

Answers to Operant Conditioning Quiz

1. B.F. Skinner believed only the environment influences our behavior, not anything inside us. Which of the six psychological approaches does this view represent? **BEHAVIORAL**
2. Which of the following is the best example of operant conditioning?
 - A. Tommy imitates his older brother—he combs his hair exactly the same way.
 - B. Wally whines to get out of eating liver & onions—his Dad makes him PB & J.**
 - C. Susie gets sad whenever she hears a certain song—her old boyfriend loved it.
 - D. Piglets come running whenever they hear Farmer John’s squeaky wheelbarrow.

MATCHING: For each example, determine which **consequence** is being used.

You may need to use choices more than once or not at all.

- (A) positive reinforcement (C) positive punishment
(B) negative reinforcement (D) negative punishment

- D 3. You are **grounded (removing privileges)** for breaking curfew: no friends, no TV.
 C 4. You are caught speeding on 169 and **given a ticket** by the state patrol.
 B 5. You clean your room to **avoid** your parent’s nagging. (**You did it, right? Behavior is reinforced.**)
 D 6. You **ignore (remove attention)** your pesky sister when she bothers you and it works!
 A 7. You wear a certain outfit a lot because people **compliment (praise/reward)** your fashion sense.

MATCHING: For each example, determine which **schedule of reinforcement** is being used. *You may need to use choices more than once or not at all.*

- (FI) fixed interval – **same time of day** (VI) variable interval – **waiting (not dependent on actions)**
(FR) fixed ratio – **set amount of work** (VR) variable ratio – **random based on actions (must attempt)**

- FI 8. School starts at **7:45 each day**. VR 10. **Hitting** a home run.
 VI 9. **Random** homework checks. FI 11. **Birthdays** and holidays like **Christmas**.

12. The best time to reinforce a behavior is _____ after the learning.
A. right away B. a few hours C. at least two days
13. Kimmie is potty-training Sammy. First she gives him a treat for going near the potty, then for sitting on the potty, and finally for USING the potty. She is rewarding his behavior as it gets closer & closer to the final desired behavior. What is this called?
A. Shaping B. Chaining C. Systematic Desensitization D. Behavior Modification
14. Describe **one** negative side-effect/problem associated with using positive punishment:
FROM PAGE 219 “PROBLEMS WITH POSITIVE PUNISHMENT” – possible answers include:
 - **Doesn’t always stop the behavior – might just avoid the punisher**
 - **Can produce negative emotions like anger or hatred**
 - **Might serve as reinforcer if seeking attention**
 - **Models aggressive behavior – can result in low self-esteem**
15. Describe **one** negative side-effect/problem associated with using positive reinforcement:
FROM THE READING ON “RIGHT REWARDS” – possible answers include but are not limited to:
 - **Might rely on extrinsic rewards – fine line between reward and bribery**
 - **Might indicate an “icky” task to complete by always providing rewards**
 - **Doesn’t help to build motivation or self-esteem...**