5.2 The Behaviourist Approach: Classical Conditioning and Pavlov's Research: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Define stimulus discrimination in classical conditioning and give one short example using the bell but showing discrimination between two similar tones.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 A clinician uses a simple classical conditioning idea to explain why a patient feels anxious when hearing a dentist's drill. The clinician says the drill sound was once paired with painful treatment. Identify two specific pieces of advice the clinician could give the patient that follow directly from classical conditioning theory to reduce the anxiety, and explain briefly why each would help.

(Total for Question 2 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.2 The Behaviourist Approach: Classical Conditioning and Pavlov's Research: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

defines stimulus discrimination: the ability to distinguish between the conditioned stimulus and similar stimuli so that only the conditioned stimulus elicits the conditioned response oe	**B1**
gives example: dog salivates to a 1000 Hz bell but not to a 900 Hz bell after discrimination training oe	**B1**
explains briefly that discrimination training involves pairing only the specific tone with food and not the similar tone oe	**B1**

Answer: Stimulus discrimination is the ability to distinguish between the conditioned stimulus and similar stimuli so that only the conditioned stimulus elicits the conditioned response. For example, a dog may salivate to a 1000 Hz bell but not to a 900 Hz bell after discrimination training, because only the 1000 Hz tone was paired with food.

Question 2

advice 1: use graduated exposure to the drill sound without pain, e.g. listen to recordings starting at low volume and gradually increasing oe	**M1**
explains why: repeated presentation of the drill sound without the unconditioned stimulus (pain) will lead to extinction of the conditioned anxiety response oe	**A1**
advice 2: pair the drill sound with a relaxation response, e.g. relaxation exercises or pleasant music during exposure oe	**M1**
explains why: counterconditioning or reciprocal inhibition can replace the conditioned anxiety with relaxation by forming a new association oe	**A1**
overall shows both suggestions follow directly from classical conditioning principles oe	**B1**

Answer: Advice 1: use graduated exposure to the drill sound without pain, for example listening to recordings at low volume then increasing it; this helps because repeated presentation of the sound without the painful stimulus should produce extinction of the anxiety. Advice 2: pair the drill sound with relaxation techniques or pleasant stimuli during exposure; this helps because counterconditioning can create a new association so relaxation replaces anxiety.

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