Psychology Majors Companion 1st edition Dunn Test Bank

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1. Define the term “psychology.”

2. Explain psychology's two cultures and its relevance to the undergraduate psychology major.

3. Is contemporary psychology mostly concerned with clinical matters?

4. List four myths that many people hold regarding the nature of psychology.

5. What is the difference between a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology?

6. Why might a student consider adding a minor in addition to a major area of study in psychology?

7. Besides knowing what opportunities the psychology major offers, students should also be clear that they know what is not true about this academic major. What are some of the popular “untruths” that less informed people often believe about psychology?

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Answer Key

1. The field of psychology is concerned with the scientific study of mind and behavior among humans and non-human animals. Psychologists are interested in understanding why and how various living organisms act, learn, think, and feel. Psychology is also a science, one dedicated to using rigorous methods and techniques to draw appropriate conclusions about the causes and consequences of behavior.
2. Kimble (1984) argued that psychology has two cultures. The first culture is populated by academic psychologists who are dedicated to adding to scientific knowledge through careful empirical research. The second culture is comprised of psychologists who are concerned with practice, that is, with helping people who have a variety of psychological problems. Many students join the discipline as undergraduates and they only know about the second or helping culture. By the time they complete their degree, they realize that they may also be at home in psychology's first culture, that is, they have a broader understanding of the discipline as a whole once they have completed their education.
3. No, not at all. In fact, as a discipline, psychology is very broad. The umbrella organization for psychology in the United States, the American Psychological Association, currently has over 50 special interest areas. Of those 50-plus areas, only about six deal explicitly with clinical psychology and related practice issues. Psychology is about all aspects of human behavior, including those areas that are related to clinical issues.
4. Here are six of the false myths many people, including novice students of psychology, often believe are turn until they learn about the discipline:
   1. Psychology is nothing more than applied common sense, which means anyone knows what there is to know about psychology.
   2. Psychology is not a science because the topics it studies are different from topics found in the older sciences, such as physics, biology, and chemistry.
   3. Psychology is a pseudoscience, that is, it is no different from fake sciences like numerology, the study of horoscopes, or handwriting analysis.
   4. Training in psychology enables psychologists to read people's minds.
   5. All psychologists are therapists or are able to do therapy or some form of psychological counseling.
   6. Psychology is based on personal experiences and definitions, not carefully built scientific evidence and argument.
5. Although undergraduate curricula in psychology can vary, a BA degree in psychology focuses on the liberal arts side of the discipline, usually including a focus on learning a foreign language and fewer requirements in natural science. In contrast, a BS degree in psychology usually requires students to complete more science courses (including lab sciences, computer science, and courses in statistics) compared with offerings in the humanities and other social sciences.
6. Minors in college enable students to learn additional areas of concentration that can complement their major area of study. Minors can support a student interest in eventually attending graduate school or they can enhance a student's preparation for joining the workforce after graduation. Virtually any minor area of study can complement a major in psychology, as long as the student chooses a concentration area

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because of genuine interest and not because it will “look good” on a resume.

7. That psychology is one of the easiest academic majors—if a department offers a serious undergraduate curriculum in psychology, then this will always be untrue.
   That a student can work as a therapist or counselor with a bachelor's degree in psychology—this is patently false. Graduate training and an appropriate degree (usually a doctorate) are necessary in order to perform psychological therapy.
   That students major in psychology in order to solve their own psychological problems—this is untrue for a variety of reasons, but mostly because the undergraduate psychology curriculum has little to do with the study of counseling or therapeutic matters. Instead, undergraduate programs in psychology focus on presenting psychology as a science.
   The notion that psychologists make a lot of money by listening to and making suggestions for dealing with people's problems is not necessarily true. Like many undergraduate degrees, one in psychology does not offer immediate wealth. With time, experience, and often further education, former psychology majors can increase their salaries.

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1. Whom does the public regard as the quintessential psychologist?
   A) Albert Bandura
   B) B. F. Skinner
   C) Phil McGraw (“Dr. Phil”)
   D) Wilhelm Wundt

2. To which year do historians attribute the origins of psychology?
   A) 1952
   B) 1900
   C) 1879
   D) 1843

3. Historians credit which country as the birthplace of psychology?
   A) Germany
   B) Russia
   C) America
   D) England

4. When you have an “orientation” in psychology, it means that you:
   A) are geared toward finding the truth.
   B) embrace a particular psychological framework along with its values.
   C) tend to be anti-medication in treating psychological disorders.
   D) are skeptical.

5. What was the process by which structuralists gathered data about sensory operations?
   A) journal writing
   B) covariation
   C) internal validity
   D) introspection

6. Psychology is the _____ study of mind and behavior.
   A) scientific
   B) personal
   C) in-depth
   D) atypical

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7. Which statement represents an operational definition?
   A) Smiling happens when people are happy.
   B) There are two kinds of smiles: real and fake.
   C) Only humans can smile.
   D) Smiling will be recorded when the corners of the mouth turn up.

8. Who described psychology as “a nasty little science”?
   A) Sigmund Freud
   B) B. F. Skinner
   C) Ivan Pavlov
   D) William James

9. Which “two cultures” did Greg Kimble distinguished when describing psychology?
   A) empiricists and realists
   B) Freudians and behaviorists
   C) researchers and practitioners
   D) problem solvers and problem generators

10. How does the American Psychological Association handle specialized interests?
    A) They coordinate membership through a divisional structure.
    B) They ignore special interests in favor of the common good.
    C) They rotate leadership across identified subspecialties.
    D) They hold presidential elections every other year.

11. An outcome that is *counterintuitive* is:
    A) not predictable through common sense.
    B) verified through hindsight bias.
    C) generally disregarded in psychological research.
    D) more valuable than an intuitive finding.

12. *Replication* serves what purpose in the scientific method?
    A) verifying the accuracy of statistical analysis of the original data
    B) challenging the results of an original study on theoretical grounds
    C) reproducing the original research to affirm its claims
    D) conducting follow-up studies using slight changes in procedure

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13. What defines a *pseudoscience?*
    A) a nonscientific behavioral explanation with no empirical support
    B) a science whose origins extend prior to the Renaissance
    C) a scientific framework with popular public support
    D) a scientific explanation that has not sufficiently matured to be recognized

14. Which psychology framework is friendly to personal experience?
    A) psychoanalysis
    B) behaviorism
    C) humanism
    D) cognitivism

15. What is the primary purpose of a capstone class within the psychology major?
    A) to introduce the discipline and lay a proper foundation for learning
    B) to provide a vehicle for helping students integrate their work across courses
    C) to practice writing using APA format
    D) to give students hands-on experience in the field

16. The two primary purposes for adding a minor to your psychology major are gaining more knowledge to help you qualify for a specific career direction and:
    A) filling up requirements to graduate on time.
    B) expanding your social circle.
    C) reinforcing principles you learn in your major.
    D) exercising intrinsic interests.

17. At what point of your education can you call yourself a psychologist?
    A) when you have completed a master's degree
    B) when you have completed a doctorate and be licensed to practice
    C) when you have completed an introductory psychology course
    D) when you have completed an associate's degree

18. What was the average starting salary for liberal arts majors as of 2014?
    A) ~$38,000
    B) ~$55,000
    C) ~$25,000
    D) ~$48,000

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19. What's the BEST way to earn a salary above the average when you have a four-year psychology degree?
    A) double majoring in psychology and philosophy
    B) applying psychological thinking in business settings
    C) going into human services
    D) working multiple part-time jobs rather than a single full-time position

20. What type of psychologists tends to earn the HIGHEST salary after 20 years?
    A) counseling
    B) school
    C) clinical
    D) forensic

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Answer Key

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. D
6. A
7. D
8. D
9. C
10. A
11. A
12. C
13. A
14. C
15. B
16. D
17. B
18. A
19. B
20. D

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