

MCAT Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior

Practice Test 1

MCAT Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior • Form 1

Directions. This is an original independent practice form designed to mirror the current MCAT section structure. Select the best answer for each question. Do not use the answer fields or explanations until you have completed the form. **Timing.** 95 minutes. The practice form uses the AAMC section timing; it is not an official AAMC form and does not produce an official scaled score. **Blueprint note.** Approximate disciplines: introductory psychology 65%, introductory sociology 30%, introductory biology 5%; Foundational Concepts 6-10; Skills 1-4.

Passage 1: Sensation and perception

A research team investigated sensory processing using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied stimulus intensity and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that perception reflects both the physical stimulus and the way sensory systems organize and interpret it. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: Detection improved as intensity increased, even though the instructions and environment were unchanged. The team concluded that sensation begins with detection, while perception includes interpretation shaped by context. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

1. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving sensory processing?
 - A. Expectations cannot influence interpretation of ambiguous input.
 - B. Perception reflects both the physical stimulus and the way sensory systems organize and interpret it.
 - C. Perception is independent of neural processing.
 - D. Every stimulus is detected with certainty once it is present.
2. If stimulus intensity increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?
 - A. Every stimulus is detected with certainty once it is present.
 - B. Expectations cannot influence interpretation of ambiguous input.
 - C. A stimulus near threshold is detected less consistently than a clearly stronger stimulus.
 - D. Perception is independent of neural processing.
3. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by stimulus intensity rather than by a competing variable?
 - A. Detection improves as intensity rises while instructions remain constant.
 - B. Perception is independent of neural processing.
 - C. Every stimulus is detected with certainty once it is present.
 - D. Use the same participant and environment while varying only intensity.
4. In a related system, stimulus intensity increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?

- A. A stimulus near threshold is detected less consistently than a clearly stronger stimulus.
 - B. Use the same participant and environment while varying only intensity.
 - C. Perception is independent of neural processing.
 - D. Every stimulus is detected with certainty once it is present.
5. Which additional result would most strengthen the claim about sensory processing?
- A. Every stimulus is detected with certainty once it is present.
 - B. Expectations cannot influence interpretation of ambiguous input.
 - C. Detection improves as intensity rises while instructions remain constant.
 - D. Perception is independent of neural processing.

Passage 2: Learning

A research team investigated reinforcement using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied the consequence following a behavior and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that a behavior followed by a reinforcing consequence becomes more likely under similar conditions. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: The target response became more frequent only when the reinforcing consequence followed that response. The team concluded that operant learning changes behavior according to its consequences. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

6. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving reinforcement?
- A. Reinforcement always decreases the behavior it follows.
 - B. Consequences cannot affect the probability of a future behavior.
 - C. Classical and operant conditioning use identical learning procedures.
 - D. A behavior followed by a reinforcing consequence becomes more likely under similar conditions.
7. If a behavior is followed reliably by a reinforcing consequence while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?
- A. The behavior increases when the reinforcing consequence is reliably delivered.
 - B. Reinforcement always decreases the behavior it follows.
 - C. Consequences cannot affect the probability of a future behavior.
 - D. Classical and operant conditioning use identical learning procedures.
8. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by the consequence following a behavior rather than by a competing variable?
- A. Consequences cannot affect the probability of a future behavior.
 - B. Compare with a group receiving the same exposure but no contingent consequence.
 - C. Behavior changes only when the consequence follows the target response.
 - D. Reinforcement always decreases the behavior it follows.

9. In a related system, a behavior is followed reliably by a reinforcing consequence while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?
- A. Reinforcement always decreases the behavior it follows.
 - B. Consequences cannot affect the probability of a future behavior.
 - C. The behavior increases when the reinforcing consequence is reliably delivered.
 - D. Compare with a group receiving the same exposure but no contingent consequence.
10. Which additional result would most strengthen the claim about reinforcement?
- A. Reinforcement always decreases the behavior it follows.
 - B. Consequences cannot affect the probability of a future behavior.
 - C. Classical and operant conditioning use identical learning procedures.
 - D. Behavior changes only when the consequence follows the target response.

Passage 3: Memory

A research team investigated encoding using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied meaningful organization of information and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that organizing information into meaningful units can improve later recall. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: Participants who organized the list recalled more items than participants given the same study time without organization instructions. The team concluded that elaboration and organization create more routes for later retrieval. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

11. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving encoding?
- A. Memory is a perfect recording of every experience.
 - B. Organizing information always prevents later recall.
 - C. Retrieval is unrelated to the way information was encoded.
 - D. Organizing information into meaningful units can improve later recall.
12. If meaningful organization of information increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?
- A. Retrieval is unrelated to the way information was encoded.
 - B. Participants who group related items recall more than participants who study the same items randomly.
 - C. Memory is a perfect recording of every experience.
 - D. Organizing information always prevents later recall.
13. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by meaningful organization of information rather than by a competing variable?
- A. Memory is a perfect recording of every experience.
 - B. Organizing information always prevents later recall.

- C. Keep study time and list length constant while changing organization instructions.
 - D. Performance improves when the test provides matching organizational cues.
14. In a related system, meaningful organization of information increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?
- A. Keep study time and list length constant while changing organization instructions.
 - B. Memory is a perfect recording of every experience.
 - C. Organizing information always prevents later recall.
 - D. Participants who group related items recall more than participants who study the same items randomly.
15. Which additional result would most strengthen the claim about encoding?
- A. Memory is a perfect recording of every experience.
 - B. Organizing information always prevents later recall.
 - C. Retrieval is unrelated to the way information was encoded.
 - D. Performance improves when the test provides matching organizational cues.

Passage 4: Stress physiology

A research team investigated stress response using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied perceived threat and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that perceived threat can activate sympathetic and endocrine responses that mobilize energy. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: Heart rate and stress-hormone concentration rose during the acute threat but returned toward baseline after the task ended. The team concluded that the stress response prepares the organism for action but has costs when prolonged. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

16. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving stress response?
- A. Perceived threat can activate sympathetic and endocrine responses that mobilize energy.
 - B. Stress responses require no physiological change.
 - C. The sympathetic system only reduces arousal.
 - D. All stress is beneficial regardless of duration or intensity.
17. If perceived threat increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?
- A. Stress responses require no physiological change.
 - B. The sympathetic system only reduces arousal.
 - C. All stress is beneficial regardless of duration or intensity.
 - D. Heart rate and circulating stress hormones rise during an acute threat.

18. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by perceived threat rather than by a competing variable?
- A. Physiological measures rise even when movement is matched.
 - B. Stress responses require no physiological change.
 - C. The sympathetic system only reduces arousal.
 - D. Compare with a neutral task matched for movement and duration.
19. In a related system, perceived threat increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?
- A. The sympathetic system only reduces arousal.
 - B. Heart rate and circulating stress hormones rise during an acute threat.
 - C. Stress responses require no physiological change.
 - D. Compare with a neutral task matched for movement and duration.
20. Which additional result would most strengthen the claim about stress response?
- A. The sympathetic system only reduces arousal.
 - B. All stress is beneficial regardless of duration or intensity.
 - C. Physiological measures rise even when movement is matched.
 - D. Stress responses require no physiological change.

Passage 5: Social identity

A research team investigated group membership using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied the salience of a group category and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that people may use group membership as part of self-concept and interpret social feedback through that identity. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: The same feedback produced a larger response when the relevant group category was made salient. The team concluded that identity links individual self-understanding to social groups and expectations. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

21. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving group membership?
- A. Stereotypes can affect only physical traits and not performance or judgment.
 - B. People may use group membership as part of self-concept and interpret social feedback through that identity.
 - C. Identity is unrelated to social context.
 - D. Groups never influence self-concept.
22. If the salience of a group category increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?
- A. Identity is unrelated to social context.
 - B. Groups never influence self-concept.

- C. Stereotypes can affect only physical traits and not performance or judgment.
 - D. Identity-relevant feedback has a larger effect when the category is salient.
23. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by the salience of a group category rather than by a competing variable?
- A. Identity is unrelated to social context.
 - B. Groups never influence self-concept.
 - C. Compare feedback with the same content but different category cues.
 - D. The same feedback produces different effects after category cues change.
24. In a related system, the salience of a group category increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?
- A. Identity is unrelated to social context.
 - B. Compare feedback with the same content but different category cues.
 - C. Groups never influence self-concept.
 - D. Identity-relevant feedback has a larger effect when the category is salient.

Passage 6: Social stratification

A research team investigated resource access using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied access to health-supporting resources and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that unequal access to housing, education, income, and care can produce patterned differences in health. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: Outcome differences narrowed after transportation and clinic-access barriers were reduced. The team concluded that social position shapes exposure, opportunity, and ability to use resources. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

25. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving resource access?
- A. Unequal access to housing, education, income, and care can produce patterned differences in health.
 - B. Health differences among groups are always random.
 - C. Access to resources has no relation to health outcomes.
 - D. Structural conditions cannot affect individual behavior or health.
26. If access to health-supporting resources increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?
- A. Reducing access barriers can improve outcomes without changing individual motivation.
 - B. Health differences among groups are always random.
 - C. Access to resources has no relation to health outcomes.
 - D. Structural conditions cannot affect individual behavior or health.

27. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by access to health-supporting resources rather than by a competing variable?
- A. Health differences among groups are always random.
 - B. Access to resources has no relation to health outcomes.
 - C. Compare otherwise similar neighborhoods with different transportation or clinic access.
 - D. Outcome differences shrink after access barriers are reduced.
28. In a related system, access to health-supporting resources increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?
- A. Health differences among groups are always random.
 - B. Access to resources has no relation to health outcomes.
 - C. Reducing access barriers can improve outcomes without changing individual motivation.
 - D. Compare otherwise similar neighborhoods with different transportation or clinic access.

Passage 7: Research methods

A research team investigated causal inference using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied the proportion of participants assigned by lottery and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that lottery assignment helps balance preexisting participant differences between experimental groups. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: Baseline characteristics were more similar across treatment groups before the intervention. The team concluded that chance assignment reduces systematic baseline differences between conditions. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

29. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving causal inference?
- A. Random assignment guarantees that a sample represents the target population.
 - B. Random assignment removes every source of measurement error.
 - C. Random assignment makes a comparison group unnecessary.
 - D. Lottery assignment helps balance preexisting participant differences between experimental groups.
30. If a larger share of participants is assigned by lottery while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?
- A. Random assignment makes a comparison group unnecessary.
 - B. As the lottery-assigned share increases, treatment groups become more comparable at baseline on average.
 - C. Random assignment guarantees that a sample represents the target population.
 - D. Random assignment removes every source of measurement error.
31. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by the proportion of participants assigned by lottery rather than by a competing variable?

- A. Compare lottery-assigned and investigator-assigned groups while keeping recruitment, treatment, and measurement procedures constant.
 - B. Baseline characteristics are more similar across lottery-assigned treatment groups before treatment.
 - C. Random assignment guarantees that a sample represents the target population.
 - D. Random assignment removes every source of measurement error.
32. In a related system, a larger share of participants is assigned by lottery while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?
- A. As the lottery-assigned share increases, treatment groups become more comparable at baseline on average.
 - B. Compare lottery-assigned and investigator-assigned groups while keeping recruitment, treatment, and measurement procedures constant.
 - C. Random assignment guarantees that a sample represents the target population.
 - D. Random assignment removes every source of measurement error.

Passage 8: Development

A research team investigated cognitive change using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied the child's ability to use abstract rules and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that cognitive development can involve changes in how information is represented and reasoned about. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: The child generalized the same reasoning operation across tasks with different surface content. The team concluded that developmental interpretations must distinguish the underlying reasoning ability from task familiarity. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

33. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving cognitive change?
- A. Task demands never affect observed performance.
 - B. Cognitive development can involve changes in how information is represented and reasoned about.
 - C. Development stops after infancy.
 - D. Every child reaches developmental milestones at exactly the same age.
34. If the child's ability to use abstract rules increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?
- A. A child who can reason systematically about hypothetical situations shows more advanced abstract thinking.
 - B. Development stops after infancy.
 - C. Every child reaches developmental milestones at exactly the same age.
 - D. Task demands never affect observed performance.
35. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by the child's ability to use abstract rules rather than by a competing variable?
- A. Development stops after infancy.

- B. Every child reaches developmental milestones at exactly the same age.
- C. Use tasks matched for vocabulary and working-memory demands.
- D. The child succeeds across several tasks requiring the same reasoning operation.

36. In a related system, the child's ability to use abstract rules increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?

- A. Use tasks matched for vocabulary and working-memory demands.
- B. Every child reaches developmental milestones at exactly the same age.
- C. A child who can reason systematically about hypothetical situations shows more advanced abstract thinking.
- D. Development stops after infancy.

Passage 9: Attitudes and behavior

A research team investigated cognitive dissonance using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied inconsistency between belief and action and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that people may experience discomfort when behavior conflicts with a valued belief and may change an attitude to reduce the inconsistency. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: Attitude change was greatest when participants freely chose the difficult action and received little external justification. The team concluded that insufficient external justification can make internal attitude adjustment more likely. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

37. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving cognitive dissonance?

- A. Inconsistency always strengthens the original attitude.
- B. People never change attitudes after acting.
- C. External rewards have identical psychological effects at every size.
- D. People may experience discomfort when behavior conflicts with a valued belief and may change an attitude to reduce the inconsistency.

38. If inconsistency between belief and action increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?

- A. A person may report a more favorable attitude after freely choosing a difficult action.
- B. Inconsistency always strengthens the original attitude.
- C. People never change attitudes after acting.
- D. External rewards have identical psychological effects at every size.

39. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by inconsistency between belief and action rather than by a competing variable?

- A. Inconsistency always strengthens the original attitude.
- B. People never change attitudes after acting.

- C. Compare with a person who was strongly rewarded or forced to perform the same action.
 - D. Attitude change is greatest when external justification is modest.
40. In a related system, inconsistency between belief and action increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?
- A. Compare with a person who was strongly rewarded or forced to perform the same action.
 - B. Inconsistency always strengthens the original attitude.
 - C. People never change attitudes after acting.
 - D. A person may report a more favorable attitude after freely choosing a difficult action.

Passage 10: Group processes

A research team investigated norms using a controlled comparison. The investigators varied the clarity of group expectations and kept the other stated conditions as constant as possible. Their working model was that group norms guide behavior by communicating what members are expected to do or avoid. The pilot results were not interpreted from a single observation. Replicate samples were measured, the outcome was recorded before and after the manipulation, and a comparison condition was included. Data summary: Behavior became more similar when expectations were clear and approval and disapproval were consistently communicated. The team concluded that norms operate through shared expectations and social consequences. The conclusion is limited to the variables measured; it does not establish that every related system behaves identically.

41. Which observation from the study most directly supports the proposed relationship involving norms?
- A. Norms affect only isolated individuals.
 - B. Groups cannot enforce expectations through approval or sanctions.
 - C. Private disagreement automatically ends a group norm.
 - D. Group norms guide behavior by communicating what members are expected to do or avoid.
42. If the clarity of group expectations increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed, which result best follows from the passage's model?
- A. Private disagreement automatically ends a group norm.
 - B. Behavior becomes more similar across members when norms are clear and consistently enforced.
 - C. Norms affect only isolated individuals.
 - D. Groups cannot enforce expectations through approval or sanctions.
43. Which comparison would most directly test whether the observed result is caused by the clarity of group expectations rather than by a competing variable?
- A. Compare groups with the same task but different clarity of expectations.
 - B. Members change behavior after learning the group's approval and disapproval patterns.
 - C. Norms affect only isolated individuals.
 - D. Groups cannot enforce expectations through approval or sanctions.
44. In a related system, the clarity of group expectations increases while the other stated conditions remain fixed. Which prediction best transfers the mechanism?

- A. Compare groups with the same task but different clarity of expectations.
 - B. Norms affect only isolated individuals.
 - C. Groups cannot enforce expectations through approval or sanctions.
 - D. Behavior becomes more similar across members when norms are clear and consistently enforced.
45. Classical conditioning involves:
- A. associating two stimuli
 - B. learning only through punishment
 - C. randomly assigning participants
 - D. changing social class
46. The sympathetic nervous system is most associated with:
- A. decreased heart rate during threat
 - B. long-term memory storage only
 - C. increased arousal and mobilization
 - D. digestion during rest only
47. A measure that gives consistent results but does not measure the intended construct is:
- A. both valid and unreliable
 - B. neither consistent nor measurable
 - C. reliable but not valid
 - D. valid but not reliable
48. A sample recruited from volunteers at one clinic may have limited:
- A. operant conditioning
 - B. generalizability
 - C. random assignment
 - D. internal consistency by definition
49. When people work less hard in a group because individual effort is less identifiable, the process is:
- A. cognitive dissonance
 - B. social loafing
 - C. group polarization
 - D. classical conditioning
50. A person's expected behavior associated with a social position is a:
- A. neuron

- B. reinforcer
- C. schema only
- D. role

51. A negative correlation means that as one variable increases, the other tends to:

- A. decrease
- B. increase at the same rate
- C. become causally determined
- D. become constant

52. The process by which children learn norms and values is:

- A. extinction
- B. socialization
- C. stratification
- D. deindividuation

53. Working memory is best described as:

- A. a reflex arc
- B. a social class
- C. briefly holding and manipulating information
- D. permanent storage of every experience

54. A behavior followed by removal of an unpleasant stimulus is strengthened by:

- A. extinction by definition
- B. random assignment
- C. negative reinforcement
- D. positive punishment

55. A confounding variable is one that:

- A. offers an alternative explanation related to exposure and outcome
- B. is always the dependent variable
- C. must be randomly assigned
- D. cannot vary

56. The health effect of unemployment may be studied at the intersection of individual behavior and:

- A. social structure
- B. molecular weight only

- C. classical conditioning only
- D. visual acuity only

57. The fundamental attribution error is the tendency to:

- A. remember every detail equally
- B. overemphasize personal factors when explaining others' behavior
- C. ignore all personal factors
- D. assume behavior is never social

58. A placebo-controlled design helps estimate:

- A. whether a measure is a neuron
- B. the exact cause of every outcome
- C. the effect beyond expectation or treatment context
- D. the population mean automatically

59. When a group discussion makes members' initial views more extreme, this is:

- A. group polarization
- B. social facilitation
- C. sensation
- D. negative reinforcement

Answer Key and Explanations

1. **Answer: B.** The supporting observation must address sensory processing and preserve the controls described in the passage.
2. **Answer: C.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: sensation begins with detection, while perception includes interpretation shaped by context.
3. **Answer: D.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to sensory processing.
4. **Answer: A.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: sensation begins with detection, while perception includes interpretation shaped by context.
5. **Answer: C.** The selected measurement directly checks the proposed relationship involving sensory processing rather than recording an unrelated observation.
6. **Answer: D.** The supporting observation must address reinforcement and preserve the controls described in the passage.
7. **Answer: A.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: operant learning changes behavior according to its consequences.
8. **Answer: B.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to reinforcement.
9. **Answer: C.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: operant learning changes behavior according to its consequences.
10. **Answer: D.** The selected measurement directly checks the proposed relationship involving reinforcement rather than recording an unrelated observation.
11. **Answer: D.** The supporting observation must address encoding and preserve the controls described in the passage.
12. **Answer: B.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: elaboration and organization create more routes for later retrieval.
13. **Answer: C.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to encoding.
14. **Answer: D.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: elaboration and organization create more routes for later retrieval.
15. **Answer: D.** The selected measurement directly checks the proposed relationship involving encoding rather than recording an unrelated observation.
16. **Answer: A.** The supporting observation must address stress response and preserve the controls described in the passage.

17. **Answer: D.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: the stress response prepares the organism for action but has costs when prolonged.
18. **Answer: D.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to stress response.
19. **Answer: B.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: the stress response prepares the organism for action but has costs when prolonged.
20. **Answer: C.** The selected measurement directly checks the proposed relationship involving stress response rather than recording an unrelated observation.
21. **Answer: B.** The supporting observation must address group membership and preserve the controls described in the passage.
22. **Answer: D.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: identity links individual self-understanding to social groups and expectations.
23. **Answer: C.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to group membership.
24. **Answer: D.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: identity links individual self-understanding to social groups and expectations.
25. **Answer: A.** The supporting observation must address resource access and preserve the controls described in the passage.
26. **Answer: A.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: social position shapes exposure, opportunity, and ability to use resources.
27. **Answer: C.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to resource access.
28. **Answer: C.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: social position shapes exposure, opportunity, and ability to use resources.
29. **Answer: D.** The supporting observation must address causal inference and preserve the controls described in the passage.
30. **Answer: B.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: chance assignment reduces systematic baseline differences between conditions.
31. **Answer: A.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to causal inference.
32. **Answer: A.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: chance assignment reduces systematic baseline differences between conditions.

- 33. Answer: B.** The supporting observation must address cognitive change and preserve the controls described in the passage.
- 34. Answer: A.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: developmental interpretations must distinguish the underlying reasoning ability from task familiarity.
- 35. Answer: C.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to cognitive change.
- 36. Answer: C.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: developmental interpretations must distinguish the underlying reasoning ability from task familiarity.
- 37. Answer: D.** The supporting observation must address cognitive dissonance and preserve the controls described in the passage.
- 38. Answer: A.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: insufficient external justification can make internal attitude adjustment more likely.
- 39. Answer: C.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to cognitive dissonance.
- 40. Answer: D.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: insufficient external justification can make internal attitude adjustment more likely.
- 41. Answer: D.** The supporting observation must address norms and preserve the controls described in the passage.
- 42. Answer: B.** The direction follows from the reported mechanism: norms operate through shared expectations and social consequences.
- 43. Answer: A.** The comparison changes the proposed variable while controlling the alternatives relevant to norms.
- 44. Answer: D.** The transferred prediction follows the same mechanism without adding an unsupported claim: norms operate through shared expectations and social consequences.
- 45. Answer: A.** Classical conditioning pairs stimuli so that one stimulus comes to elicit a response associated with another.
- 46. Answer: C.** Sympathetic activation supports a fight-or-flight response with increased arousal and energy mobilization.
- 47. Answer: C.** Consistency indicates reliability, whereas measuring the intended construct indicates validity.
- 48. Answer: B.** A narrow volunteer sample may not represent the broader population, limiting external validity or generalizability.

- 49. Answer: B.** Social loafing is reduced individual effort when responsibility is diffused in a group.
- 50. Answer: D.** A role is the set of behavioral expectations associated with a status or position.
- 51. Answer: A.** A negative correlation indicates an inverse association, not necessarily causation.
- 52. Answer: B.** Socialization is the lifelong process of learning norms, values, roles, and expectations.
- 53. Answer: C.** Working memory temporarily holds and manipulates information during cognitive tasks.
- 54. Answer: C.** Negative reinforcement increases behavior by removing an aversive stimulus after the behavior.
- 55. Answer: A.** A confounder is related to the presumed cause and outcome, complicating causal interpretation.
- 56. Answer: A.** Unemployment reflects social and economic structure while also affecting individual stress and behavior.
- 57. Answer: B.** People often overattribute others' actions to dispositions while underweighting situational factors.
- 58. Answer: C.** A placebo condition helps separate treatment effects from expectations and context.
- 59. Answer: A.** Group polarization is movement toward a more extreme average position after group discussion.