



AP[®] Psychology 2002 Scoring Commentary

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Question 1

Sample YY: Score High

All 10 points

- point 1: “start eating’ . . . stop eating”
- point 2: “brain to give ‘stop eating’ orders”
- point 3: “sympathetic system is activated in times of stress. It increases respiration and sweating.”
- point 4: “parasympathetic system returns the body to homeostasis”
- point 5: “opponent-color processing theory”
- point 6: “colors are paired together such as red and green”
- point 7: “a person using drugs initially will feel high”
- point 8: “continues the drug use, the initial high gets weaker and weaker the negative feelings get stronger”
- point 9: “when sodium ions are let in through the gates, the neuron becomes more positive and depolarizes”
- point 10: “the gates are opened again allowing sodium ions to flow out of the cell making it slightly negative again”

Sample XX: Score Medium

Points 3, 4, 7, 8

- point 1: insufficient information to score
- point 2: cannot score without point 1
- point 3: “sympathetic . . . heart rate increases”
- point 4: “parasympathetic shuts this all down and heart rate decreases”
- point 5: opponent process theory not mentioned
- point 6: insufficient information to score
- point 7: “tolerance”
- point 8: a weak, but acceptable, definition of dependency is found: “body knows that the substance is bad for it, but it needs it anyway”
- point 9: all-or-nothing does not score
- point 10: insufficient information to score

Sample ZZ: Score Low

Points 7, 8

- point 1: insufficient information to score
- point 2: insufficient information to score
- point 3: does not mention sympathetic
- point 4: does not mention parasympathetic
- point 5: does not mention opponent process theory
- point 6: rod-cone discussion does not establish opponent process
- point 7: “a stimulant causes a euphoric high”
- point 8: “when the drug wears off . . . the individual feels a low and a craving”
- point 9: insufficient information to score
- point 10: insufficient information to score

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Question 2

Sample YY: Score High

9 points – all points with the exception of 1 - Egocentrism

- point 1: does NOT score because of “selfish view...views himself as most important part”
- point 2: “Jessie may have thought that the field trip was made solely because of her interest”
- point 3: “becomes acquainted with a task by watching another person perform the task”
- point 4: “learned how to slide down a pole by watching the firemen”
- point 5: “when a person applies a rule of grammar to all instances and does not take into account any exceptions to the rule”
- point 6: “Jessie may have said I goed to the fire station.”
- point 7: “supplying information that you think is appropriate when actual facts cannot be recalled”
- point 8: “told her brother that she ate a peanut butter and strawberry jelly sandwich when in fact it was a peanut butter and grape jelly sandwich”
- point 9: “a mental set for categorizing objects”
- point 10: “Jessie may have a schema for classifying all four legged black and white spotted things as cows...she may have assimilated dalmation into her schema and called it a cow”

Sample XX: Score Medium

4 points – Observational Learning points 3 & 4 – Reconstructive Memory points 7 & 8

- point 1: “the belief that you are the best” does not qualify – no point awarded
- point 2: example is based on being the best rather than being centered from one viewpoint – no score point awarded
- point 3: “learn through observation (monkey see; monkey do)”
- point 4: “saw how to turn on the engine of a fire truck so she then might want to show her brother how to do it”
- points 5 & 6: The concept is not based on exaggeration – no points awarded.
- point 7: “not remember fully and then just make up missing pieces”
- point 8: “Jessie could have said the building was bright red and new/clean. When in reality she didn’t remember the exact color...”
- points 9 & 10: “scheming” or fabricating for interest scores no definition or application points

Sample ZZ: Score Low

1 point – Observational Learning 4

- points 1 & 2: The reference to “ego” and “makes it seem more important” does not score for definition or application to the story.
- point 3: no definition stated – no point awarded
- point 4: “observing the firemen...and learning from their actions”
- points 5 & 6: Exaggeration of a story does not score for definition or application.
- points 7 & 8: “retelling” does not define or give an appropriate application for reconstructive memory
- points 9 & 10: not addressed – no points awarded