

2022

AP[®]

 CollegeBoard

AP[®] Psychology

Free-Response Questions

Set 2

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

2 Questions

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology. You may plan your answers in this orange booklet, but no credit will be given for anything written in this booklet. **You will only earn credit for what you write in the separate Free Response booklet.**

1. Ruth is bored at home alone, so she decides to watch a scary movie. At the most tense part of the movie, when a large, scary-looking creature is being chased through the village by an angry mob, Ruth’s roommate Lynn comes home unexpectedly and flips on the lights. Ruth is startled and spills her hot chocolate on herself.

Part A

Explain how each of the following relates to the scenario above.

- Optimal arousal theory
- Motor neurons
- Somatosensory cortex

Part B

As they are cleaning up, Ruth tells Lynn the plot of the movie she was watching. While the creature was large and scary-looking, he was actually quite gentle and friendly. The villagers discussed the situation and concluded that the creature was going to hurt them, so they grabbed their torches and pitchforks and chased him out of town. As the creature tried to escape, he tripped over a rock and knocked down a villager.

Explain how each of the following concepts relates to the villagers’ perceptions during this scene in the movie.

- Out-group homogeneity bias
- Fundamental attribution error
- Group polarization

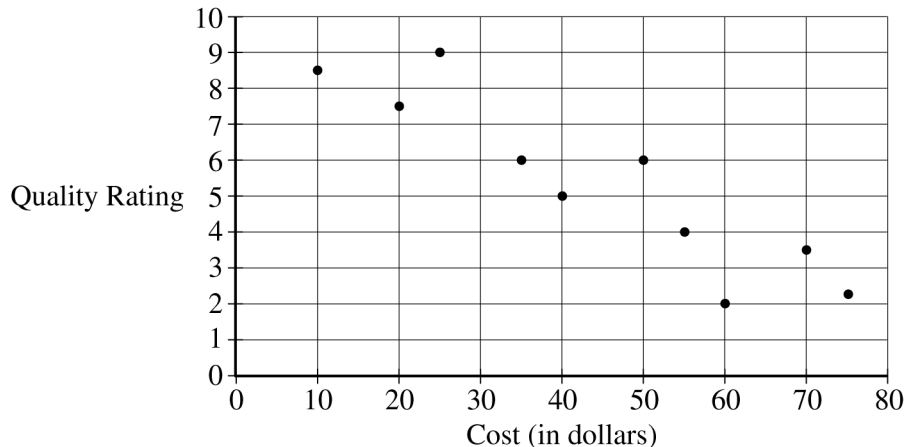
Part C

The next morning, Lynn tells Ruth that she saw her sleepwalking and she must have been acting out a dream of being chased by the creature.

- Explain why Lynn’s assumption is likely incorrect.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

2. Dr. Knowles is interested in exploring the relationship between garment cost and perceptions of clothing quality. She predicts that higher-priced clothing will be perceived as being of higher quality. She creates a Web site that presents floral shirts listed at a variety of prices. Participants are directed to the Web site, where they are asked to rate the quality of each shirt (on a 1 to 10 scale, with higher numbers meaning better quality). The data collected are presented in the scatterplot.



Part A

- State the hypothesis that Dr. Knowles tested in the study.
- Identify the operational definition Dr. Knowles used for quality.
- Identify the type of relationship found between the variables of interest in the study.
- Explain why Dr. Knowles cannot generalize the results of her study to the general population.

Part B

Explain how each of the following could affect participants’ perceptions of the floral shirts on the Web site.

- Mere-exposure effect
- Cones of the retina
- Prototype

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

STOP

END OF EXAM