

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SAMPLE 2020

PSYCHOLOGY

Course Code: BHP315116

SECTION A – HUMAN LEARNING

Q1. Conditioning

Examine the following stimulus items:

Stimulus 1 - Classical Conditioning

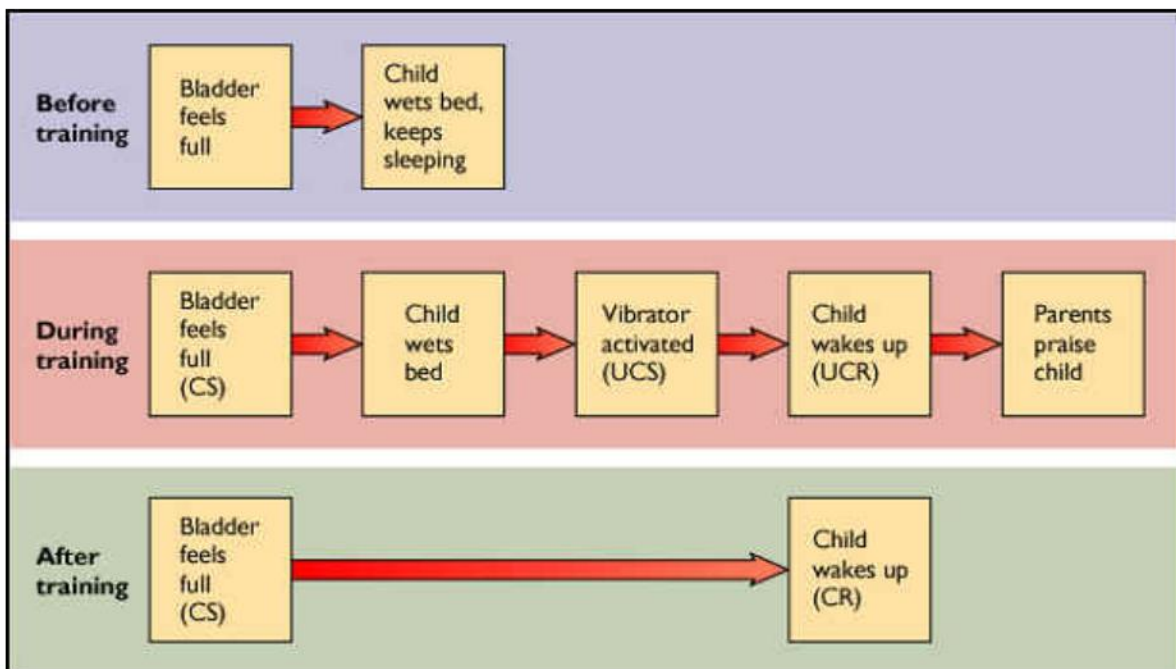


Figure 1: Classical Conditioning

From: <http://web.mnstate.edu/malonech/Psy342/Notes/Classical%20Cond.%20Ch.%203.htm>

Stimulus 2 – Applications of Shaping

...this process has been replicated with other animals—including humans—and is now common practice in many training and teaching methods. It is commonly used to train dogs to follow verbal commands or become house-broken: while puppies can rarely perform the target behaviour automatically, they can be shaped toward this behaviour by successively rewarding behaviours that come close.

Shaping is also a useful technique in human learning. For example, if a father wants his daughter to learn to clean her room, he can use shaping to help her master steps toward the goal. First, she cleans up one toy and is rewarded. Second, she cleans up five toys; then chooses whether to pick up ten toys or put her books and clothes away; then cleans up everything except two toys. Through a series of rewards, she finally learns to clean her entire room.

Adapted from: <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-psychology/chapter/operant-conditioning/#:~:text=Shaping%20involves%20a%20calculated%20reinforcement,behavior%20and%20discouraging%20improper%20behavior.>

Use the information presented in Stimulus 1 and Stimulus 2, as well as other relevant information from the course to:

- a) Explain *at least two (2)* of the following concepts in relation to **Human Learning**:
 - Neutral, unconditioned and conditioned stimuli
 - Reinforcement
 - Shaping

- b) Analyse and critically evaluate the application of operant and classical conditioning to explain how humans learn.

STATEMENT:

In line with the current exam specifications the format, questions and content of the 2020 Psychology exam will be similar to previous years' exam papers.

Two different types of stimulus have been used for each question and care has been taken to include only terminology from the course in the questions.