

Chapter 11: Behaviourism

Study Questions

- 1) Edward Lee Thorndike and Ivan Petrovich Pavlov contributed substantially to the study of psychology. Elaborate on this statement, and indicate the various similarities and differences that exist between these two scientists.
- 2) How did psychology change itself to become the science we study today? What concepts were abandoned? What concepts were adopted?
- 3) Watson is commonly known as the “founder” of behaviourism, however Leakey disagrees - discuss. What were Watson’s main ideas and contributions? How/why was he different from some other psychologists of his day?
- 4) Describe Watson’s take on behaviorism after World War II, and explain his radical beliefs about humanity and our behavior. What did he think about inherited traits?
- 5) The transition from positivism to logical positivism in the early twentieth century was very beneficial for psychology as a science. Discuss two contributions of logical positivism that aimed to establish psychology as a science.
- 6) Have the contributions of Tolman and Hull remained relevant today? If so, how have they influenced modern-day psychology in terms of both concepts and method?
- 7) Compare and contrast Tolman's purposive behaviorism and Hull's mechanistic behaviorism (use examples).
- 8) What were the three aspects of B.F. Skinner’s radical behaviourism? Why was it considered radical? How does it follow Darwin’s theory of evolution?
- 9) What are the two building blocks of the mediation theory?
- 10) Describe the main components of philosophical behaviorism, and explain using examples why it is not a valid theory.