True or False

1. Questions about human nature date back to the speculations of the ancient philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

TRUE
True or False

2. Sigmund Freud is generally considered to be the father of psychology.

FALSE
3. Most recent psychology doctorates in the United States, Canada, and Europe have been earned by women.

TRUE
True or False

4. The science of psychology evolved from the older, more established fields of biology and philosophy.

TRUE
True or False

5. Psychology is best defined today as the study of mental life.

FALSE
6. Psychology is a way of asking and answering questions.  

TRUE
True or False

7. The most significant and persistent issue in psychology concerns the nature-nurture controversy – that is, the relative contributions of biology and experience to mental processing and behavior.

TRUE
True or False

8. Evolution has become an important principle for psychology.

TRUE
9. In contrast to sociology and anthropology, contemporary psychology has little interest in how behavior varies across cultures.  

FALSE
10. Psychiatry is a branch of psychology that involves the assessment and treatment of psychological disorders.

FALSE
True or False

11. New born babies are colorblind.

FALSE
True or False

12. Rewarding a behavior on every occurrence makes it stronger than if it is rewarded unpredictably.

FALSE
True or False

13. Most people would refuse to deliver a painful electric shock to an innocent victim.

FALSE
True or False

14. In our skin there are temperature sensors that explicitly detect heat.

FALSE
True or False

15. We only use a small proportion of our brains.

FALSE
True or False

16. Infants learn to talk at a younger age if their parents refrain from baby talk.

FALSE
True or False

17. Diets high in sugar tend to increase a child’s level of activity.

FALSE
True or False

18. Most children who are abused become abusive parents.

FALSE
True or False

19. The most effective technique for dealing with a chronically disobedient child is punishment.

FALSE
True or False

20. Apples and potatoes taste about the same.

TRUE
Prologue: Psychology’s Roots

Prescientific Psychology

- Is the mind connected to the body or distinct?
- Are ideas inborn or is the mind a blank slate filled by experience?
**Prologue: Psychology’s Roots**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mind and body are connected</th>
<th>vs.</th>
<th>Mind and body are distinct</th>
<th>Some ideas are inborn</th>
<th>vs.</th>
<th>The mind is a blank slate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Hebrews</td>
<td></td>
<td>Socrates</td>
<td>Socrates</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aristotle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aristotle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Plato</td>
<td>Plato</td>
<td></td>
<td>Locke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Augustine</td>
<td></td>
<td>Descartes</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prologue: Psychology’s Roots

- Psychological Science Is Born
  - Empiricism
    - Knowledge comes from experience via the senses
    - Science flourishes through observation and experiment
Prologue: Psychology’s Roots

- Wilhelm Wundt opened the first psychology laboratory at the University of Liepzig (c. 1879)
Prologue: Psychology’s Roots

- Structuralism used introspection (looking in) to explore the elemental structure of the human mind
Prologue: Psychology’s Roots

- Functionalism focused on how behavioral processes function—how they enable organism to adapt, survive, and flourish.
Prologue: Psychology’s Roots

- Psychological Science Develops
  - Wundt--German philosopher and physiologist
  - James--American philosopher
  - Pavlov--Russian physiologist
  - Freud--Austrian physician
  - Piaget--Swiss biologist
Prologue: Psychology’s Roots

Figure 1- British Psychological Society membership
Definition of Psychology

• The science of behavior and the mind
  – behavior - observable actions of a person or animal
  – mind - thoughts, feelings, sensations, perceptions, memories, dreams, motives and other subjective experiences
  – science
    • an objective way to answer questions
    • based on observable facts / data and well described methods
What is Psychology?

• A set of questions about mental functioning
  – trace back to philosophy
  – Aristotle asked about memory, personality, emotions, etc.

• A set of theories and procedures for asking and answering questions
  – the scientific method
  – evolved over centuries, first in physics

• A product of history
  – philosophy asked many of the basic questions
  – physiology used similar methods
CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOLOGY

Big Issues
Prologue: Contemporary Psychology

- Psychology’s Big Issues
  - Nature-nurture controversy
    - the relative contribution that genes and experience make to development of psychological traits and behaviors
Prologue: Contemporary Psychology

Natural selection

- principle that those inherited trait variations contributing to survival will most likely be passed on to succeeding generations
SEVEN
PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES
# Prologue: Contemporary Psychology

- Psychology’s Perspectives (pg 11)

## Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perspective</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Sample Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>How the body and brain enable emotions, memories, and sensory experiences</td>
<td>How are messages transmitted within the body? How is blood chemistry linked with moods and motives?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolutionary</td>
<td>How the natural selection of traits promotes the perpetuation of one’s genes</td>
<td>How does evolution influence behavior tendencies?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavior genetics</td>
<td>How much our genes and our environment influence our individual differences</td>
<td>To what extent are psychological traits such as intelligence, personality, sexual orientation, and vulnerability to depression attributable to our genes? To our environment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychodynamic</td>
<td>How behavior springs from unconscious drives and conflicts</td>
<td>How can someone’s personality traits and disorders be explained in terms of sexual and aggressive drives or as the disguised effects of unfulfilled wishes and childhood traumas?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral</td>
<td>How we learn observable responses</td>
<td>How do we learn to fear particular objects or situations? What is the most effective way to alter our behavior, say, to lose weight or stop smoking?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive</td>
<td>How we encode, process, store, and retrieve information</td>
<td>How do we use information in remembering? Reasoning? Solving problems?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social-cultural</td>
<td>How behavior and thinking vary across situations and cultures</td>
<td>How are we—as Africans, Asians, Australians, or North Americans—alike as members of one human family? As products of different environmental contexts, how do we differ?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neuroscience Perspective

• Focus: How our body and brain work to create emotions, memories, and sensory experiences.
Evolutionary Perspective

• Focus: How evolution influences behavior tendencies.

• Behavior is explained by how the behavior may have helped our ancestors survive long enough to reproduce successfully.
Behavior Genetics Perspective

• Focus: How behavior is affected by genes and the environment
• Combines biology and behaviorism
• Emphasis on the importance of both genetic and environmental factors on behavior
Psychodynamic Perspective

- Focus: How behavior is affected by unconscious drives and conflicts
- Behavior is explained through unconscious motivation and unresolved inner conflicts from one’s childhood.
- Modern version of psychoanalytic perspective.
Behavioral Perspective

• Focus: How we learn through rewards, punishments, and observation
• Behavior is explained by previous learning
Cognitive Perspective

• Focus: On how people think and process information
• Behavior is explained by how a person interprets the situation
• How is knowledge acquired, organized, remembered, and used to guide behavior?
Social-Cultural Perspective

• Focus: How thinking and behavior change depending on the setting or situation
• Behavior is explained by the influence of other people present