

OPERANT CONDITIONING WORKSHEET
A.P. Psychology

Name: _____

Date: _____

Hour: _____

For each of the following operant conditioning situations, identify whether this is an example of *positive reinforcement*, *negative reinforcement*, *positive punishment*, or *negative punishment*.

1. Sean spans his child for playing in the street. _____
2. An "A" on exam that you studied real hard for. _____
3. Amanda cleans her room to keep her parents off her back. _____
4. Getting a pay check. _____
5. Reducing anxiety by smoking a cigarette. _____
6. Embarrassing a student for giving a wrong answer. _____
7. Taking an aspirin to relieve a headache. _____
8. Receiving a hug from your parents after throwing a temper tantrum. _____
9. A patient in a mental hospital is very disruptive at mealtimes. She grabs food from the plates of those sitting near her and tries to cram the food into her mouth. Because this behavior of stealing food is very undesirable and needs to stop immediately, a plan is developed whereby every time the patient steals food from other plates, she is immediately taken to a room without food.

10. Santa wasn't doing well in her 6th grade math class. Her teacher told her parents that Santa handed in less than 50% of her assignments. Her parents told Santa that any day on which she did not hand in her homework she would be sent to bed right after dinner. As a result of this threat, Santa has handed in her assignment 97% of the time. _____
11. In order to receive his allowance Travis cleans up his room regularly. _____
12. John does not go to the dentist every 6 months for a check-up. Instead, he waited until a tooth really hurts, then goes to the dentist. After 2 emergency trips to the dentist, John now goes to the dentist every 6 months like he should. _____
13. A student jumps up and down, hand raised, yelling "me, me, me!" until the teacher calls on her. The child jumps and yells even more in the future. _____
16. Police randomly stop drivers and give tickets to those who are not wearing their seat belts; as a result of this program seat belt use increases in town. _____

SCHEDULES OF REINFORCEMENT – for each example below identify which of the 4 schedules of partial reinforcement (fixed-interval, variable-interval, fixed-ratio, or variable-ratio) or continuous reinforcement is being used.

- 1. _____ Paid 10 dollars for every 20 party-subbs made.
- 1. _____ Studying for a class that has pop quizzes.
- 1. _____ Slots machines are based on this schedule.
- 1. _____ Feeding a puppy every time it sits when you command.
- 1. _____ Speed traps on the highway.
- 1. _____ Selling cookies door-to-door.
- 1. _____ Getting the clothes out of the dryer after you hear the buzzer.
- 1. _____ Going up a staircase to reach a landing with a nice view.
- 1. _____ Doing 20 pushups to help stay fit.
- 1. _____ Playing Bingo.
- 1. _____ Getting a paycheck at the end of 2 weeks.
- 1. _____ Random drug testing.
- 1. _____ A strike in bowling.
- 1. _____ Calling your mechanic to see if your car is fixed yet.
- 1. _____ Frequent flyer program where one gets a free flight after a specific number of miles flown.
- 1. _____ Child screams and cries in store to get what he wants – every so often it works.
- 1. _____ Child who likes to hear the theme music from Jeopardy every night.
- 1. _____ Getting a nickel for every pop can that you return.
- 1. _____ Waiting for a sunny day to go to the beach.
- 1. _____ Surfer waiting for the perfect wave to roll in.
- 1. _____ A child wants to go fishing looks under rocks for worms.
- 1. _____ A computer saleswoman gets commission on each sale.

1. _____

Getting a \$.50 raise on your hourly raise each year.