

OPERANT CONDITIONING PRACTICE

Examples. *The following scenarios are provided to assist you in analyzing examples of operant conditioning. Read the examples and determine which one of the four choices was used.*

a. Billy likes to campout in the backyard. He camped-out on every Friday during the month of June. The last time he camped out, some older kids snuck up to his tent while he was sleeping and threw a bucket of cold water on him. Billy has not camped-out for three weeks.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS: **PR** **NR** **PP** **NP**

1. What behavior was changed? CAMPING OUT

2. Was the behavior strengthened or weakened? _____ (Punishment weakens, Reinforcement strengthens)

3. What was the consequence? _____

4. Was the consequence added or subtracted? _____ (added = positive, subtracted = negative)

What was used? _____

b. Robert gets a ticket for driving under the influence that results in a \$500 fine and suspension of his driving license.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS: **PR** **NR** **PP** **NP**

1. What behavior was changed? DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

2. Was the behavior strengthened or weakened? _____ (Punishment weakens, Reinforcement strengthens)

3. What was the consequence? _____

4. Was the consequence added or subtracted? _____ (added = positive, subtracted = negative)

What was used? _____

c. Andrew is being reinforced using a token economy. When he follows a direction / command he earns a point. At the end of each day, he can "buy" free time, TV. privileges, etc. with his points. When he misbehaves or doesn't follow a command, he loses points. Andrew used to call his mom names. Since he has been on the point system, his name-calling has been reduced to almost zero.

1. What behavior was changed? _____ NAME CALLING _____

2. Was the behavior strengthened or weakened? _____ (Punishment weakens, Reinforcement strengthens)

3. What was the consequence? _____

4. Was the consequence added or subtracted? _____ (added = positive, subtracted = negative)

What was used? _____

d. Shelly is in the grocery store with her dad. As they near the checkout lane, Shelly starts whining for a candy bar but her dad says no. Shelly begins to cry and cries louder when her dad continues to refuse. At the checkout lane, in front of the cashier, Shelly throws herself onto the floor and begins screaming. Her dad responds by grabbing a candy bar and giving it to her. She quickly quiets down and eats her candy bar. This exchange gets repeated on subsequent trips to the grocery store.

1. What behavior was changed? _____ GIVING SHELLY A CANDY BAR _____

2. Was the behavior strengthened or weakened? _____ (Punishment weakens, Reinforcement strengthens)

3. What was the consequence? _____

4. Was the consequence added or subtracted? _____ (added = positive, subtracted = negative)

What was used? _____