

Schedules of Reinforcement

Instructions: To determine the schedule of reinforcement being used, ask yourself: Is *time* the major factor that causes a favorable outcome (reinforcement) or is it *repetition* of responses? If time or the needed repetition of responses is constant or patterned, it is fixed; if the time or repetition of responses is random or intermittent, its variable.

Variable Ratio (VR): Unpredictable number of responses (behaviors) are required before reinforcement can be obtained

Fixed Ratio (FR): Specific number of responses (behaviors) is required before reinforcement can be obtained

Variable Interval (VI): Changing amounts of time must elapse before a response will obtain reinforcement

Fixed Interval (FI): A specific amount of time must elapse before a response will elicit reinforcement

For each number write:

Fixed-Interval Schedule - **FI**
Fixed-ratio Schedule- **FR**

Variable-Interval Schedule- **VI**
Variable-Ratio Schedule- **VR**

- 1) _____ Paid 10 dollars for every 20 puzzles solved.
- 2) _____ Studying for a class that has surprise quizzes.
- 3) _____ Slot machines are based on this schedule.
- 4) _____ Fishing in a lake in the summer.
- 5) _____ Speed traps on highways.
- 6) _____ Selling a product door to door.
- 7) _____ Getting the clothes out of the dryer once it buzzes.
- 8) _____ Going up a staircase to reach a landing with a nice view.
- 9) _____ Doing 20 pushups to help stay fit.
- 10) _____ Playing Bingo.
- 11) _____ Getting a paycheck at the end of 2 weeks.
- 12) _____ Random drug testing.
- 13) _____ A strike in bowling.
- 14) _____ Calling your mechanic to see if your car is fixed yet.
- 15) _____ Frequent flyer program where one gets a free flight after a specific number of miles flown.
- 16) _____ Child screams and cries in store to get what he wants-every so often it works.
- 17) _____ Child who likes to hear theme music from Jeopardy every night at 7 pm.
- 18) _____ Trying to find a parking spot in Metropolis with a meter that works.
- 19) _____ Wife is watching boxing match with husband- she receives a kiss at the end of every 3-minute round.
- 20) _____ Waiting for a sunny day to go to the beach.
- 21) _____ Surfer waiting for the perfect wave to ride in.
- 22) _____ Looking under rocks for worms.