

ESSAY ELABORATION

Overview

This activity develops the work started in the 'specialist terminology in essays' activity. The aim of this activity is for students to develop their essay writing, by practicing effective elaboration, both in terms of AO1 (knowledge) and AO3 (evaluation)!

Resources Required

- An example essay where key phrases/sentences are omitted (see example attached)
- Optional: Peer marking essay grid (for stretch and challenge activity)

Teacher Instructions

Teaching and Learning Strategy A

The students can either work individual or in pairs. Students should be provided with a copy of the essay where the key phrases/sentences are omitted. Students should then read the essay and add in the missing sentences/phrases in order to elaborate this answer.

Stretch & Challenge

Once the students complete the above task, provide students with a copy of the 'peer marking essays' handout and ask to the students to mark this essay (remember it is an A-Level 16-mark essay). Once the students have agreed a mark, they should then outline how they would improve this essay.



Outline and evaluate the behaviourist approach in psychology (12 marks)

The behaviourist approach has a number of key assumptions: _____

_____.

Classical conditioning is a type of learning in which an existing involuntary reflex is associated with a new stimulus. Classical conditioning was originally discovered by

_____.

He tested classical conditioning by associating _____

_____.

The bell (neutral stimulus) was associated with food (unconditioned stimulus) which resulted in the dog salivating (conditioned response) whenever a bell was rung (conditioned stimulus). This process can also be used to explain _____

_____.

Operant conditioning is a type of learning in which a new voluntary behaviour is associated with a consequence. There are two main types of operant conditioning:

1) positive reinforcement _____

_____.

2) negative reinforcement _____

_____.

Finally, there is also punishment _____

_____.

ESSAY ELABORATION

ESSAY

*One strength of the behaviourist approach is its scientific credibility*_____

_____.

This makes the research easier to replicate to assess reliability.

*Another strength of the behaviourist approach is its application to the treatment of phobias.*_____

_____.

*However, one weakness of the behaviourist approach is the over-reliance on animal research.*_____

_____.

*Therefore, we may be unable to*_____

_____.



Outline and evaluate the behaviourist approach in psychology (12 marks)

The behaviourist approach has a number of key assumptions: *Firstly, that all behaviour is learned and can be controlled by classical and operant conditioning and secondly, that humans are no different from animals and that research on animal behaviour is directly relevant to humans.*

Classical conditioning is a type of learning in which an existing involuntary reflex is associated with a new stimulus. Classical conditioning was originally discovered by *Pavlov, while he was studying salivation in dogs.*

He tested classical conditioning by associating *the sound ringing of a bell with the food, so that the dogs would learn to salivate when they heard the sound of a bell.* The bell (neutral stimulus) was associated with food (unconditioned stimulus) which resulted in the dog salivating (conditioned response) whenever a bell was rung (conditioned stimulus). This process can also be used to explain *the acquisition of phobias.*

Operant conditioning is a type of learning in which a new voluntary behaviour is associated with a consequence. There are two main types of operant conditioning: 1) positive reinforcement – *when a behaviour is followed by a desirable consequence (reward) and is therefore more likely to be repeated;* 2) negative reinforcement – *when a behaviour is followed by the removal of an adverse consequence and is therefore more likely to be repeated.* Finally, there is also punishment – *when a behaviour is followed by an unpleasant consequence and is therefore less likely to be repeated.*

One strength of the behaviourist approach is its scientific credibility. *Research examining classical and operant conditioning focuses on observable behaviour within a controlled laboratory setting.* This makes the research easier to replicate to assess reliability.

Another strength of the behaviourist approach is its application to the treatment of phobias. *Treatments such as systematic desensitisation have been developed using the principles of classical conditioning. These treatments have been effective in treating many people with phobias, demonstrating the positive application of behaviourist theories.*

However, one weakness of the behaviourist approach is the over-reliance on animal research. *Some psychologists argue that these studies tell us little about human behaviour, as humans may not respond in the same way as rats/pigeons.* Therefore, we may be unable to *extrapolate the findings from animals to humans which limits the effectiveness of behaviourist research.*

ESSAY MARKING GRID

Name on essay:

Names of peer-markers:

Level	AS Level	A Level	Accuracy	Knowledge	Evaluation	Clarity and organisation	Focus	Specialist terminology
4	10-12	13-16	Accurate	Generally well-detailed	Thorough and effective	Clear and coherent	Focused on question	Used effectively
3	7-9	9-12	Occasional inaccuracies	Evident	Some effective evaluation	Mostly clear and organised	Mostly focus on question	Mostly used appropriately
2	4-6	5-8	Lacks accuracy	Present	Limited effectiveness	Lacks clarity / organisation in places	Mainly descriptive	Used inappropriately on occasions
1	1-3	1-4	Many inaccuracies	Limited	Limited or absent	Lacks clarity & poorly organised	Poorly focused	Absent or inappropriately used
0	0	0	No creditworthy material	No creditworthy material	No creditworthy material	No creditworthy material	No creditworthy material	No creditworthy material

Overall Mark Band:

Mark Awarded: /12

EBI (Even better if):

WWW (What went well):