Skills Center Psychology Practice Exam III

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1.) The neurons that make initial contact with the environment are
   a. interneurons.
   b. motor neurons.
   c. glial cells.
   d. sensory neurons.

2.) The neurons that carry messages to muscles and glands that produce behavioral responses are
   a. motor neurons.
   b. sensory neurons.
   c. interneurons.
   d. glial cells.

3.) Glial cells are the cells in the nervous system that
   a. remove waste and help neurons communicate more efficiently.
   b. make the initial contact with the environment.
   c. convey information from one internal processing site to another.
   d. carry messages and commands away from the brain and spinal cord.

4.) Because reflex pathways are controlled primarily by spinal cord pathways
   a. individuals typically respond slowly to painful stimuli and events.
   b. individuals are able to respond more quickly to painful stimuli and events.
   c. individuals will only show adaptive reflexive responses when the spinal cord is intact.
   d. individuals with damage to the hippocampus would not show any reflexive responses.

5.) Dendrites are the part of the neuron that
   a. receives information and carries information into the cell body.
   b. stores genetic material and is the metabolic center of the neuron.
   c. transmits information from one neuron to other neurons and cells.
   d. stores neurotransmitters.

6.) The soma is the part of the neuron that
   a. stores genetic material and is the metabolic center of the neuron.
   b. receives information and carries information into the cell body.
   c. transmits information from one neuron to other neurons and cells.
   d. stores neurotransmitters.

7.) The part of the neuron that transmits information from one neuron to other neurons and cells is the
   a. axon.
   b. dendrites.
   c. soma.
   d. myelin sheath.

8.) The part of the neuron that stores neurotransmitters is the
   a. terminal buttons.
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b. dendrites.
c. soma.
d. axon.

9.) The small gap that exists between adjacent neurons is
   a. the synapse.
   b. the soma.
   c. the axon hillock.
   d. the sodium/potassium pump.

10.) The flow of information within a neuron is
    a. from terminal buttons to axon to soma to dendrites.
    b. from dendrites to soma to axon to terminal buttons.
    c. from dendrites to axon to terminal buttons to soma.
    d. from axon to soma to dendrites to terminal buttons.

11.) An excitatory message causes the cell’s electrical potential to become
    a. more positive.
    b. more negative.
    c. less negative.
    d. less positive.

12.) The process associated with an increase in the likelihood of an action potential is
    a. hyperpolarization.
    b. reuptake of neurotransmitters.
    c. overproduction of acetylcholine.
    d. depolarization.

13.) Hyperpolarization occurs when a neuron’s electrical potential
    a. becomes less negative.
    b. becomes more negative.
    c. becomes more positive.
    d. becomes less positive.
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14.) Janet touches a stove that is warm; Pierce touches a stove that is hot. Based on what is known about action potentials you could predict that
   a. the action potentials in Pierce’s nervous system will travel more quickly because the incoming signal is more intense.
   b. the action potentials in Janet’s nervous system will be weaker because the incoming signal is less intense.
   c. the action potentials in both individuals will be the same due to the all-or-none principle.
   d. the action potentials in Pierce’s nervous system will travel a shorter distance because the incoming signal is more intense.

15.) Franklin is listening to music with the volume fairly low; Cecilia is listening to music with the volume turned to the maximum.
   a. the action potentials in both individuals will be the same due to the all-or-none principle.
   b. the action potentials in Cecilia’s nervous system will travel more quickly because the incoming signal is more intense.
   c. the action potentials in Franklin’s nervous system will be weaker because the incoming signal is less intense.
   d. the action potentials in Franklin’s nervous system will travel a shorter distance because the incoming signal is less intense.

16.) One neurotransmitter that is primarily inhibitory and stabilizes communication within the brain is
   a. dopamine.
   b. acetylcholine.
   c. serotonin.
   d. GABA.

17.) Underproduction of dopamine has been linked with
   a. schizophrenia.
   b. Alzheimer’s disease.
   c. muscle paralysis.
   d. Parkinson’s disease.

18.) Underproduction of acetylcholine has been linked with
   a. schizophrenia.
   b. Alzheimer’s disease.
   c. Parkinson’s disease.
   d. obsessive-compulsive disorder.
19.) Drugs that mimic the action of neurotransmitters are called
   a. agonists.
   b. antagonists.
   c. hormones.
   d. antioxidants.

20.) Drugs that block the action of neurotransmitters are called
   a. antagonists.
   b. agonists.
   c. hormones.
   d. antioxidants.

21.) The brain and spinal cord comprise the body’s
   a. peripheral nervous system.
   b. central nervous system.
   c. autonomic nervous system.
   d. parasynaptic nervous system.

22.) Humans would not be able to receive sensory input from the environment, or act on the environment, if they didn’t have
   a. an autonomic nervous system.
   b. a somatic nervous system.
   c. a corpus callosum.
   d. a hippocampus.

23.) The autonomic nervous system is important for survival because
   a. it helps us to interact with the environment.
   b. it links the two hemispheres of the brain, allowing them to communicate effectively.
   c. it performs basic internal housekeeping functions that keep us alive.
   d. it controls the release of hormones necessary for growth.

24.) Nora took some new medication for her allergies that caused her heart to race and made her agitated. It is likely that Nora’s new medication is increasing the activity in her
   a. somatic nervous system.
   b. parasympathetic nervous system.
   c. sympathetic nervous system.
   d. cerebellum.
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25.) Byron’s car skidded across the rain-slicked road, into oncoming traffic. He was able to regain control and avoid an accident. As he sat in his car on the side of the road his blood pressure decreased and his heartbeat slowed. These physical reactions were triggered by Byron’s
a. somatic nervous system.
b. sympathetic nervous system.
c. parasympathetic nervous system.
d. cerebellum.

26.) Early studies of brain damage indicated that destruction of an area known as Wernicke’s area was associated with a loss of the ability to
a. produce spoken language.
b. easily understand spoken language.
c. recognize and understand emotions.
d. perform coordinated motor skills effectively.

27.) Early studies of brain damage indicated that patients who could understand, but who would not produce, spoken language often had damage to
a. an area known as Wernicke’s area.
b. an area known as Broca’s area.
c. the right side of the brain.
d. the cerebellum.

28.) An individual who is in a coma and requires medical life-support will most likely show damage to
a. the hindbrain.
b. the midbrain.
c. the forebrain.
d. the spinal cord.

29.) Monique found she couldn’t stop sneezing during the speeches at her high school reunion. It is likely that brain imaging techniques conducted during her sneezing episode would show high levels of brain activity in the
a. reticular formation.
b. medulla and the pons.
c. amygdala.
d. temporal lobe of her cerebral cortex.
30.) Dr. Allenby has implanted electrodes in the brain of a cat. By passing differing electrical frequencies through the wires Dr. Allenby finds that he can cause the cat to fall into a deep sleep, or awaken suddenly. Based on this information, it is most likely that Dr. Allenby is stimulating the cat’s
   a. cerebellum.
   b. hypothalamus.
   c. thalamus.
   d. reticular formation.

31.) Larry was recently knocked unconscious when he struck his head on the ice during a figure skating routine. He used to be a world class figure skater, but now he is having difficulty coordinating the motor skills involved in various jumps and spirals. It is likely that when he fell on the ice Larry sustained damage to his
   a. reticular formation.
   b. amygdala.
   c. cerebellum
   d. temporal lobe.

32.) Within the midbrain, the area that is associated with the release of dopamine is
   a. the tectum.
   b. the reticular formation.
   c. the substantia nigra.
   d. the hippocampus.

33.) The substantia nigra
   a. controls basic life support functions such as heart rate, and breathing.
   b. is an important relay station for visual and auditory information.
   c. contains the neurons that release dopamine from their terminal buttons.
   d. controls our motivation and emotional responses.

34.) The thalamus
   a. is an important gathering point for sensory input.
   b. plays an important role in the regulation of eating, drinking, and sexual behavior.
   c. has been linked to a variety of motivational and emotional behaviors.
   d. is thought to be critically involved in the formation of memories.
35.) The hypothalamus
   a. is an important gathering point for sensory input.
   b. plays an important role in the regulation of eating, drinking, and sexual behavior.
   c. has been linked to a variety of motivational and emotional behaviors.
   d. is thought to be critically involved in the formation of memories.

36.) Darnell was a monkey who was extremely aggressive and often flew into uncontrollable rages. Brain researchers lesioned portions of Darnell’s forebrain and he became extremely passive and docile. These researchers most likely lesioned portions of Darnell’s
   a. occipital lobe.
   b. amygdala.
   c. hippocampus.
   d. substantia nigra.

37.) Tyler was an epileptic who had portions of his hippocampus removed to control his seizures. This surgery is most likely to affect Tyler’s ability to
   a. form new memories.
   b. control his eating and drinking.
   c. interpret sensory information accurately.
   d. express appropriate emotions.

38.) Kirby suffered a stroke and even though he has recovered much of his functioning, he finds that he still cannot move his left foot effectively. In this case, it is likely that Kirby’s stroke affected his
   a. right frontal lobe.
   b. left frontal lobe.
   c. left temporal lobe.
   d. right temporal lobe.

39.) Norbert has a brain tumor that is pressing on areas of his right parietal lobe. You might expect that Norbert would have difficulty
   a. moving portions of the right side of his body.
   b. moving portions of the left side of his body.
   c. sensing touch and temperature on the left side of his body.
   d. sensing touch and temperature on the right side of his body.
40.) The temporal lobe of the brain is where
   a. voluntary muscle movements are initiated.
   b. our sense of touch is mainly localized.
   c. auditory information is processed.
   d. visual information is processed.

41.) Stuart has been experiencing unexplained flashes of light and color, even when his eyes are closed. He recently saw a neurologist who located a small brain tumor. In this case it is likely that the tumor is located in Stuart’s
   a. occipital lobes.
   b. temporal lobes.
   c. right frontal lobe.
   d. right parietal lobe.

42.) Research into hemispheric lateralization indicates that the left hemisphere plays a more significant role in
   a. spatial tasks, such as fitting together puzzle pieces.
   b. fine motor coordination.
   c. interpreting and understanding emotions.
   d. language and communication.

43.) Barney was frightened when a bat unexpectedly flew into the house. Although the bat has been gone for nearly 15 minutes, Barney is still a little shaky and agitated. This long-term, widespread response to the arousing situation is mainly a result of activity in Barney’s
   a. peripheral nervous system.
   b. endocrine system.
   c. central nervous system.
   d. substantia nigra.

45.) In neural networks
   a. the activation of one unit will affect the activation of other units in the network.
   b. the activation of one unit will have no impact on the other units in the network.
   c. all the units in the network must be activated for the network to function.
   d. the output will be changed if the original input is altered in any way.
46.) The pathway that information travels in a spinal reflex is
   a. motor neuron, interneuron, sensory neuron.
   b. sensory neuron, brain, motor neuron.
   c. motor neuron, brain, sensory neuron.
   d. sensory neuron, interneuron, motor neuron.

47.) Damage to the reticular formation will most directly affect
   a. consciousness and arousal.
   b. eating behavior.
   c. speech and language.
   d. thought and reason.

48.) Grandpa had a stroke and now has difficulty seeing. His stroke probably damaged the
   a. limbic system.
   b. reticular activating system.
   c. occipital lobe.
   d. frontal lobe.

49.) Most psychologist would argue that
   a. the idea of localization or lateralization of brain function has little scientific support.
   b. even highly localized or lateralized tasks involve much cooperation between different brain areas.
   c. localization occurs for functions handled by subcortical structures, but not for cortical functions.
   d. almost all functions are highly localized or lateralized, and each brain area works almost independently.

51.) Dr. Lampe has just discovered a new drug named XM7 that produces side effects such as partial paralysis within
    the body. Based on this information, it appears that Dr. Lampe’s new drug is
   a. an agonist for acetylcholine.
   b. an antagonist to dopamine.
   c. an antagonist to acetylcholine.
   d. an agonist for endorphins.

52.) One technique that allows researchers to monitor overall electrical activity within the brain is
   a. computerized tomography scans (CT scans).
   b. positron emission tomography (PET).
   c. an electroencephalogram (EEG).
   d. magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

53.) Computerized tomography scans (CT scans)
   a. monitor the overall electrical activity within the brain.
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b. provide actual pictures of the brain’s anatomical structures.
c. use radioactive chemicals to produce a pictorial blueprint of brain activity.
d. produce detailed, three-dimensional images of the brain.

54.) The imaging technique that uses radioactive chemicals to produce a pictorial blueprint of brain activity is
   a. an electroencephalogram (EEG).
   b. computerized tomography scans (CT scans).
   c. positron emission tomography (PET)
   d. magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

55.) Tera was recently involved in a car accident where she sustained a head injury. She used to be able to play the piano flawlessly, but now she is having difficulty coordinating the finger movements required in complex musical pieces. It is likely that in the car accident Tera sustained damage to her
   a. reticular formation.
   b. amygdala.
   c. cerebellum.
   d. temporal lobe.

56.) Within the limbic system, the structure that has been linked to aggression and defensive behaviors is the
   a. thalamus.
   b. amygdala.
   c. hippocampus.
   d. medulla.

57.) Research into hemispheric lateralization indicates that the right hemisphere plays a more significant role in
   a. language and communication.
   b. spatial tasks, such as fitting together puzzle pieces.
   c. fine motor coordination.
   d. mathematics and logical reasoning.
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