

AQA | Psychology | A-Level | A-
level Psychology

HS6 Psychology

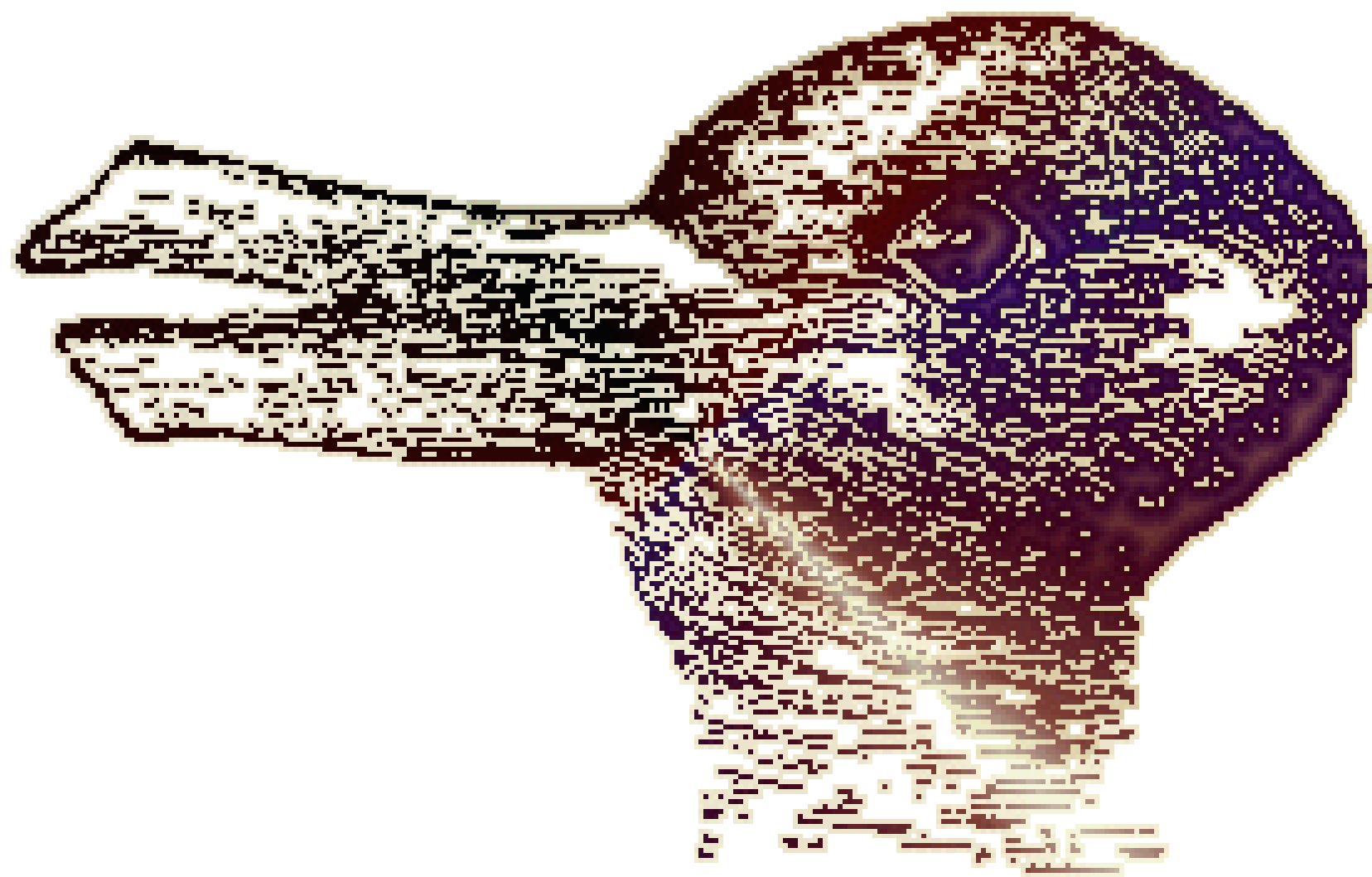
What is it you see?

Turn and Talk:

- **Are there alternative visions? Do you have to justify your vision?**
- **How do we relate this to your own points of view?**
- **How do we relate this to psychology?**









Welcome to Hendon 6th Form A-level Psychology

**What should you expect as a
Psychology student at
HS6?**

- Know what topics will cover next year
- Assess your enthusiasm at starting your Psychology A Level.. (How resilient are you?)

High Expectations

- **2 teachers 2 folders** for each topic.
- All lessons are attended – no excuses.
- Catch up on classwork in study time if a lesson is missed.
- Exam practice every lesson.
- Assessments every 4/5 lessons and an exam paper is sat at the end of every unit.
- 2 formal exams (internal).
- Homework is set and checked every week.

Psychology:

Biopsychology

- Focuses on how **biological processes** (like the brain, nervous system, and hormones) influence behaviour.

Cognitive Psychology

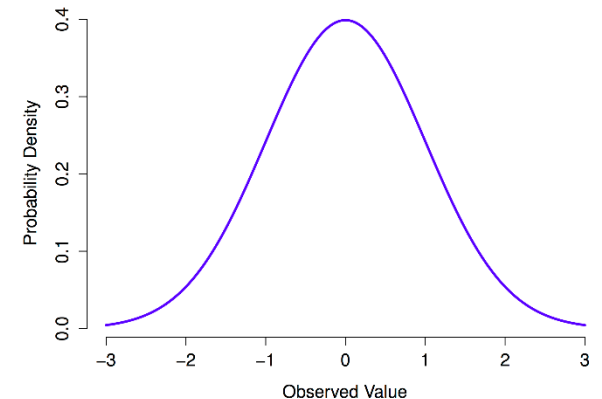
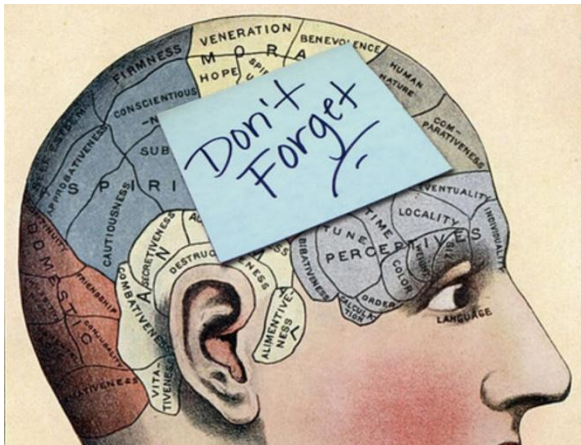
- Studies **mental processes** such as **memory, perception, attention, and decision-making.**

Social Influence

- Explores how people's behaviour is affected by others.

Research Methods

- Teaches how psychologists **design experiments, collect data, and analyse results.**



Attachment

Obedience

Conformity

Minority influence

Voltage Dilemma Game

Based on Milgram's study

Game Instructions

1. You will be presented with a scenario where you must decide whether to administer a shock to a learner.
2. Each incorrect answer will increase the voltage level.
3. Reflect on your decisions and the ethical implications.

Scenario Choices

Scenario: The learner gives a wrong answer.

Choices:

1. Administer a 15V shock
2. Administer a 200V shock
3. Administer a 450V shock
4. Refuse to administer a shock

Reflection Questions

1. How did you feel about administering shocks?
2. What factors influenced your decisions?
3. How do you think the learner felt?
4. What are the ethical implications of this experiment?

Milgram's experiment

- [Milgram experiment 1963](#)

Course content



- What do you think you will be learning about?

Unit	Level	Course content	Exam date
1	A1	Paper 2 - Approaches Research methods	May and June 2027
2	A1	Paper 1 - Social influence Memory	
3	A1	Paper 1 - Attachment Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	
4	A2	Paper 2 – Biopsychology Research methods	
5	A2	Paper 3 – Issues and debates Schizophrenia	
6	A2	Paper 3 – Gender Forensic Psychology	

Jobs available?

Any role working with people:

Psychology & Mental Health Careers

Clinical Psychologist

Counsellor or Therapist

Educational Psychologist

Forensic Psychologist

Health Psychologist

Organisational Psychologist

Neuropsychologist

Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner (PWP)

Behavioural economist

Psychological Researcher

University Lecturer

Law, Crime & Justice

Forensic Psychologist

Criminal Profiler

Probation Officer

Police Officer (with psychological training)

Teacher

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Coordinator

Youth Worker

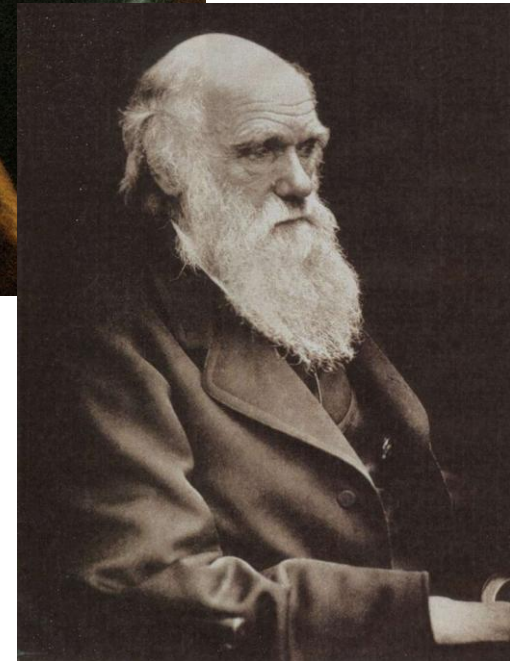
Teacher (with further training)



Can Psychology be seen as a science?

Science – collecting information through systematic and objective investigation. The aim is to discover general laws.

Psychology's early philosophical roots



Psychology's early philosophical roots

- Rene Descartes: Dualism – the mind and body are independent
- John Locke: Empiricism: all experience can be obtained through the senses (not inherited)
- Charles Darwin: Evolutionary Theory: all human and animal behaviour has changed across generations.

Wundt and Introspection

- Wilhelm Wundt: Established the first psychology lab
- Introspection: the first systematic attempt to study the mind by breaking up conscious awareness into basic structures of thoughts, images and sensations.
- Controlled methods and experiments

Psychology as a Science

- Emergence of psychology as a distinct scientific discipline
- Key psychologists: Watson, Skinner, Freud, Rogers, Maslow
- Development of different psychological approaches

Psychology:

- The term 'psychology' is derived from Greek words 'psyche' (mind) and 'logos' (study)
- It refers to the scientific study of the human mind and its functions.

Check for understanding questions

1. What is psychology?
2. Who is considered the father of psychology?
3. What is introspection?
4. Name two key psychologists in the development of psychology as a science.

Check your answers

1. What is psychology?

- Psychology is the **scientific study of the mind and behaviour.**

2. Who is considered the father of psychology?

- **Wilhelm Wundt** is considered the father of psychology. He opened the first psychology lab in 1879.

3. What is introspection?

- Introspection is the process of **examining your own thoughts and feelings** in a structured way.

4. Name two key psychologists in the development of psychology as a science.

- **John B. Watson** – founder of behaviourism
- **B.F. Skinner** – developed operant conditioning

Approaches in Psychology

Psychodynamic

- Childhood trauma or conflict has not been dealt with and repressed
- Unconscious conflicts between the id and ego have created defense mechanisms

Behavioural

- Unpleasant consequences are avoided (operant conditioning)
- Psychological problems in others are observed and imitated (social learning theory)

Cognitive

- Faulty and irrational thought processes lead to negative schemas about the world
- Negative view of self, the world and the future

Biological

- Inherited faulty genes
- Chemical imbalances
- Brain trauma

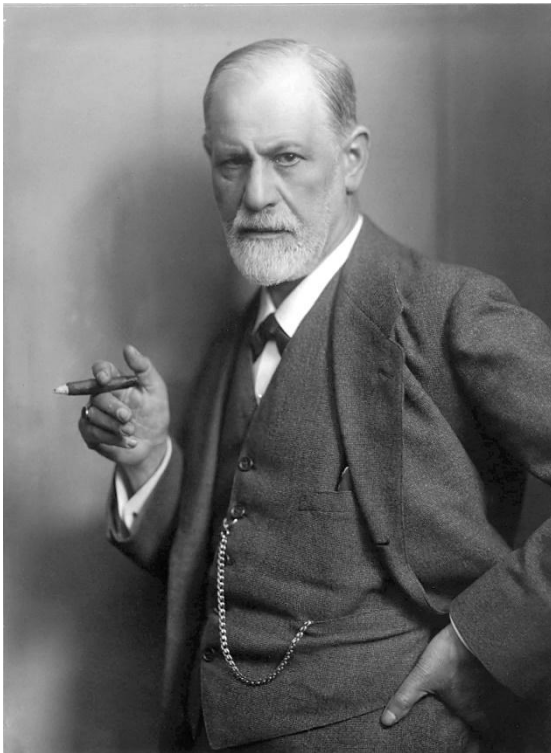
Humanistic

- Each person can exercise free will and make rational choices, not dominated by unconscious primitive instincts
- humans should be viewed as a whole and not reduced to component parts

Behaviour

The Psychodynamic Approach

- Freud – the psychodynamic approach



Freud – key psychologist

1. The Role of the Unconscious

- Freud believed much of our behaviour is driven by unconscious motives and desires.
- The unconscious mind contains repressed memories, instincts, and unresolved conflicts.

2. The Structure of Personality

- **Id** – operates on the pleasure principle; seeks immediate gratification.
- **Ego** – operates on the reality principle; mediates between the id and superego.
- **Superego** – internalised moral standards; punishes the ego with guilt.

- Psychodynamic Approach | Sigmund Freud |
AQA Psychology

The Behaviourist Approach

Behaviourists believe that we are a product of our _____, that at birth we are 'tabula rasa' (_____) and that behaviour is shaped by the environment in which we are reared. The behaviourist approach makes the following assumptions:

- ALL behaviour is _____ from experience
- What has been learned can be unlearned
- Only _____ behaviour is measurable scientifically and it is only these behaviours that should be studied. Thought processes are _____ and difficult to test;
- It is valid to study the behaviour of _____ as they share the same principles of learning.

subjective

environment

animals

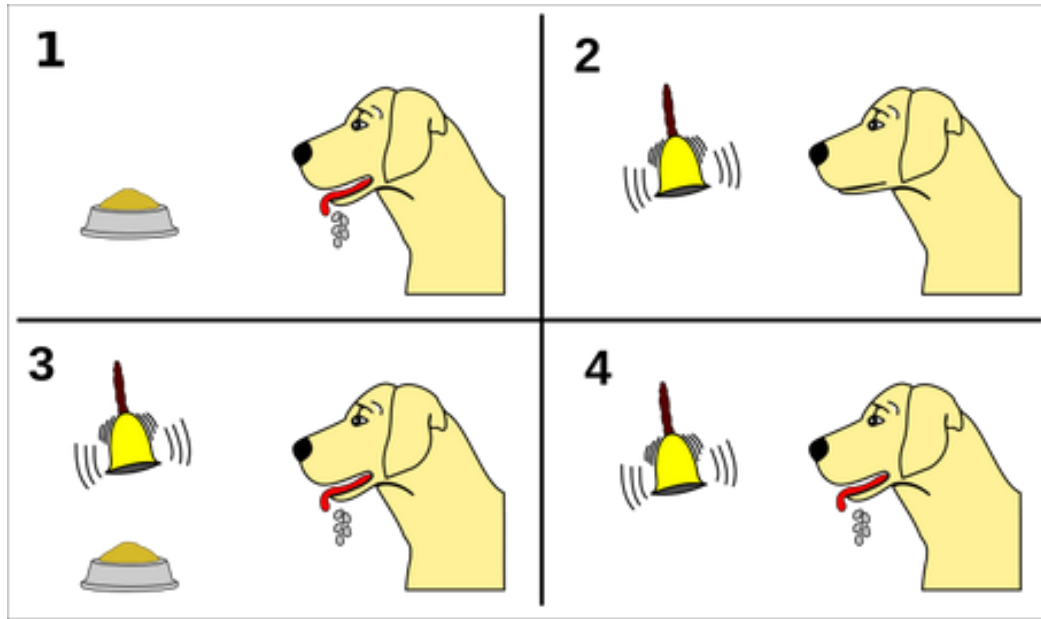
learned

observable

blank slate

Behaviourists believe that we are a product of our **environment**, that at birth we are 'tabula rasa' (**blank slate**) and that behaviour is shaped by the environment in which we are reared. The behaviourist approach makes the following assumptions;

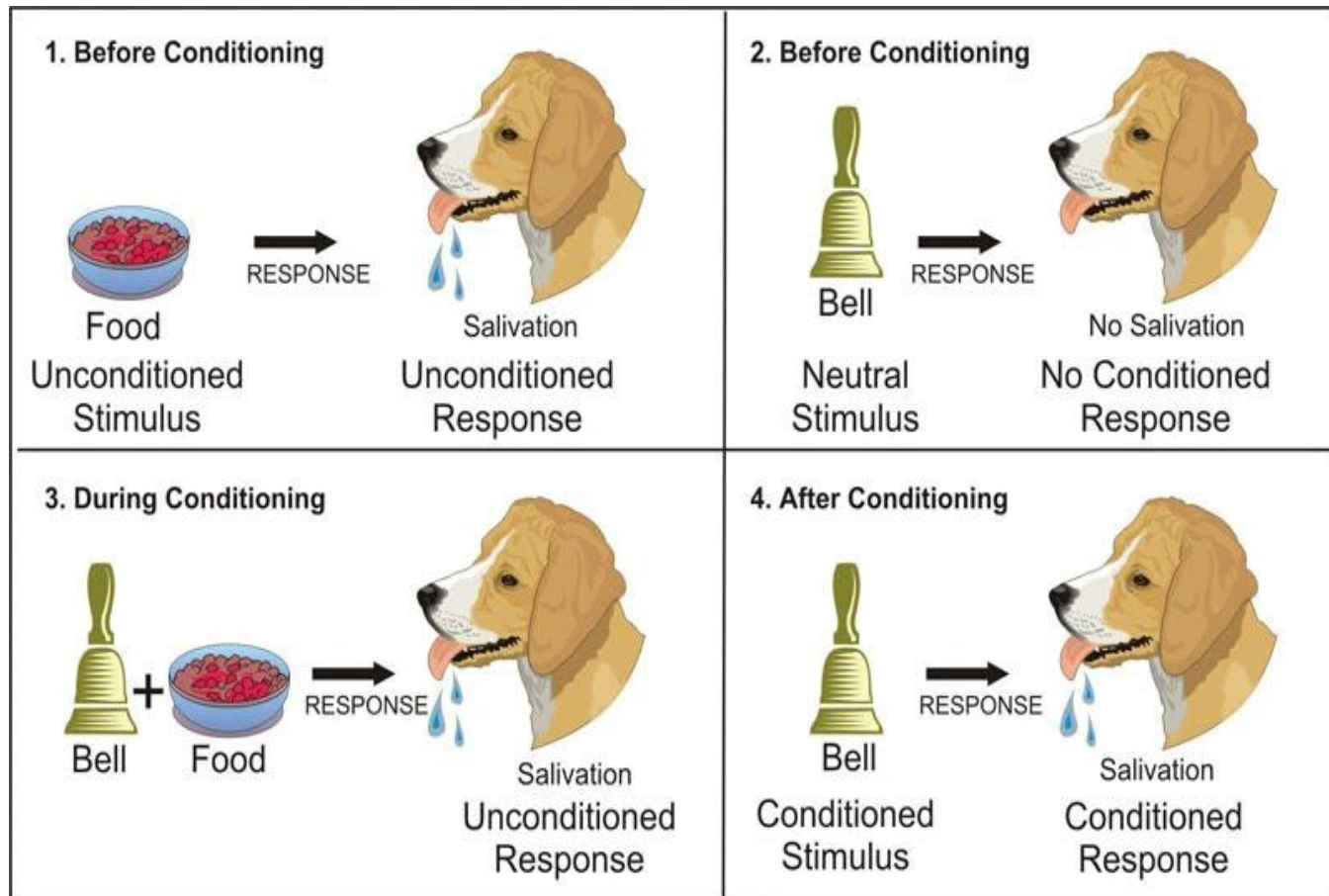
- ALL behaviour is **learned** from experience
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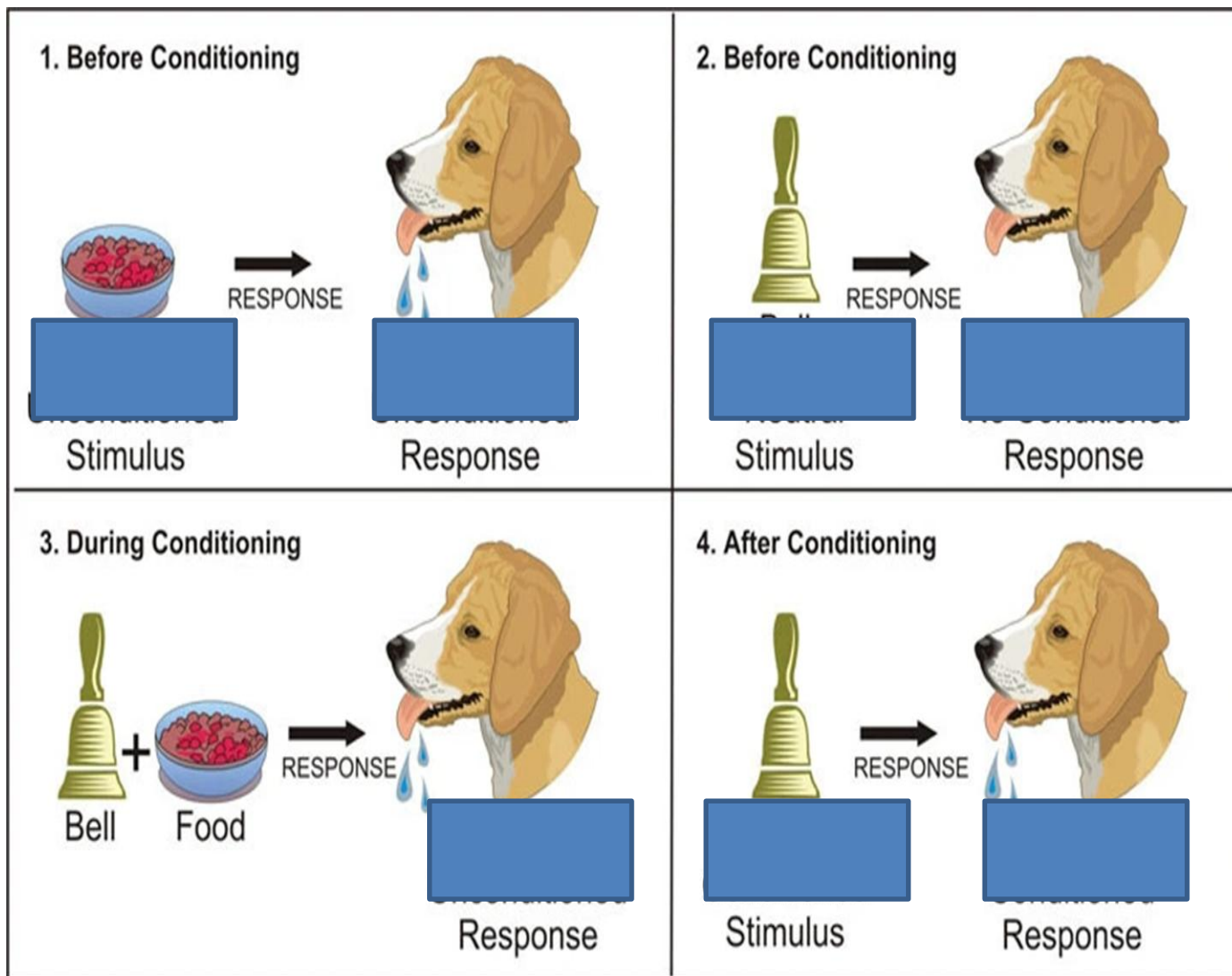


Ian Pavlov



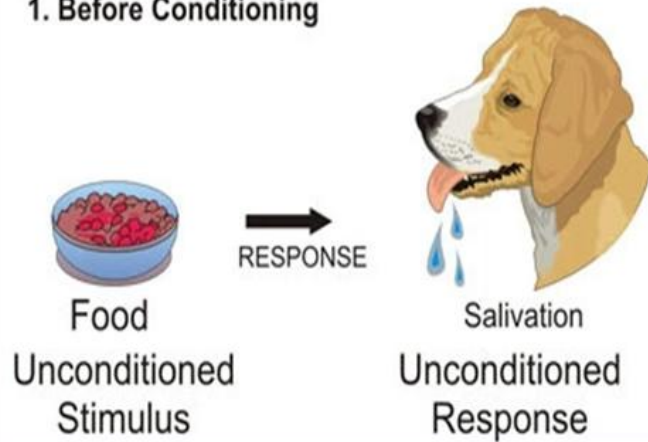
Classical conditioning = learning through association



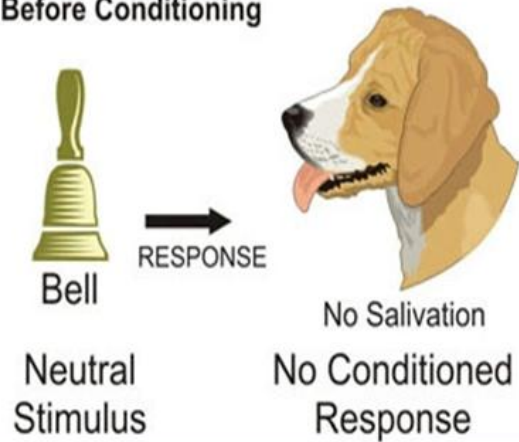


unconditioned response, conditioned response, no conditioned response, unconditioned response, unconditioned stimulus, conditioned stimulus, neutral stimulus

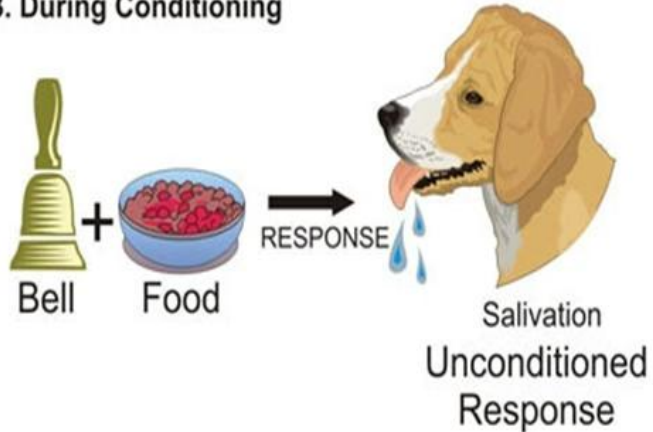
1. Before Conditioning



2. Before Conditioning



3. During Conditioning



4. After Conditioning

