

## Practice Questions for Midterm Exam

### Part I. Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The idea that expectations influence perceptions is
  - a. Apparent when we consider our ability to perceive objects very fast.
  - b. Due to the interplay between short and long term memory.
  - c. Means that we see and hear what we expect to see and hear.
  - d. Creates the phenomenon of false memories.
2. Which one of the following is not a self-control problem?
  - a. Difficulty to commit to a diet
  - b. Difficulty to commit to saving
  - c. Lack of investment in education
  - d. Procrastination
3. Which of these statements is not correct about long term memory?
  - a. The information and its source are stored separately.
  - b. We are sometimes able to keep information for a very long time.
  - c. Long term memory can be instrumental in helping us construct new memories.
  - d. Long term memory links us with our past.
4. The standard normal distribution
  - a. Approaches the binomial distribution as the sample size increases.
  - b. Has mean 0 and standard deviation 1.
  - c. Has a median that is different from its mean and mode.
  - d. Is symmetric but with two modes.
5. In general, people are more likely to seek out information that
  - a. Forms an exception to their current theory.
  - b. Expands their knowledge to make a fully informed decision
  - c. Confirms their hypothesis
  - d. Increases the external validity of their observation.
6. According to Martin Gardner, which are the ways in which the pseudo-scientist's paranoid tendencies are likely to be exhibited? (Check all that apply.)
  - a. He considers himself a genius.
  - b. He believes himself unjustly persecuted and discriminated against.
  - c. He regards his colleagues as ignorant blockheads.
  - d. He is incompetent in any field of science.
  - e. He often has a tendency to write in complex jargon.
7. Among many possible effects that could have caused the findings in Pennebaker et. al. (1979), which particular confound did the authors specifically mention in their paper?
  - a. Alcohol consumption
  - b. Unclear judgment of attractiveness
  - c. Mere exposure
  - d. Change of people in the crowd
  - e. They didn't mention any particular problem.

8. The equation  $P(B|A) = P(B)$  is true if the two events, A and B, are
  - a. Equal
  - b. Disjoint
  - c. Independent
  - d. Conditional
  - e. Very unlikely
  
9. Thomas Gilovich argues that optimism and high levels of self-confidence
  - a. Can result from unconscious implantations of false memories.
  - b. Are dysfunctional adaptations to difficult environments.
  - c. May reflect biased and self-serving beliefs.
  - d. Are useful mechanisms of adaptation to competitive situations.
  - e. Are common among high performing individuals with high levels of self-esteem.
  
10. Which of the following situation is not relevant or false for a binomial setting?
  - a. The probability for success is the same for all observations.
  - b. There are a fixed number of observations.
  - c. The observations have to be dependent.
  - d. We only have two different categories for the observations.
  
11. Although there were relatively fewer students pursuing Computer Science and Engineering, Kahneman and Tversky (1972) found that Tom W., described as a dull but highly competent graduate student, was more likely to be a student of Computer Science and Engineering than other more popular disciplines e.g. Social Sciences and Medicine. This finding is consistent with the use of which decisional heuristic in making judgments under uncertainty?
  - a. Availability
  - b. Representativeness
  - c. Illusory Correlation
  - d. Concreteness
  - e. Anchoring
  
12. Emotions are not
  - a. Fast
  - b. Triggered automatically
  - c. Transitory
  - d. The main cause of behavior
  
13. The dialog between the dianetic therapist and the patient in Martin Gardner's chapter "Dianetics" has a lot in common with
  - a. The dialogs between patients and their therapists who help them to recover memories of alien abduction.
  - b. The dialogs between mediums communicating with clients' dead loved ones and the clients.
  - c. A and B
  - d. None of the above.

## Part II. Short Questions

1. If you toss 6 coins and you get 5 heads. What is the probability of this event? Would you say that the coin is more likely to fall on head (Yes/No)?
  
2. Based on the Alien abduction paper (Clancy et. al. 2002), what are the psychological mechanisms that can cause people to believe in alien abduction?