Operant Conditioning Examples

Part 1
Complete these sentences applying the principles of operant conditioning. Circle the correct answers.

- Reinforcement (increases / decreases) the likelihood that behavior will continue.
- Positive reinforcement is the (addition / removal) of a (desirable / undesirable) stimulus.
- Negative reinforcement is the (addition / removal) of a (desirable / undesirable) stimulus.

Part 2
Here are some additional examples you can use to practice applying the principles of operant conditioning.

Arthur was late leaving for class; as a result he was locked out and missed an important class.

- What is the initial behavior? Arthur was late leaving for school
- What is the result of this initial behavior? Arthur missed an important class
- What is the stimulus which produced a change in behavior? Behavior is…

  \[ \text{more likely to occur} \]

  \[ \checkmark \text{ Punishment by Removal} \]

  \[ \text{less likely to occur} \]

  \[ \text{Punishment by Addition} \]

1. Pepe’s daughter followed directions right away, so he gave her a “high-5”!

- What is the behavior? ________________________________
- What is the stimulus? ________________________________
- What is the stimulus which produced a change in behavior? Behavior is…

  \[ \text{more likely to occur} \]

  \[ \checkmark \text{ Positive Reinforcement} \]

  \[ \checkmark \text{ Negative Reinforcement} \]

  \[ \text{less likely to occur} \]

  \[ \text{Punishment by Addition} \]

  \[ \text{Punishment by Removal} \]
2. Tyson was absent from work without notifying his supervisor and was “written up.”

What is the behavior? ______________________________________

What is the stimulus? _______________________________________

What is the stimulus which produced a change in behavior? Behavior is…

...more likely to occur

☐ Positive Reinforcement

☐ Negative Reinforcement

...less likely to occur

☐ Punishment by Addition

☐ Punishment by Removal

3. Rose lost her license due to the fact that she received her 2nd DUI.

What is the behavior? ______________________________________

What is the stimulus? _______________________________________

What is the stimulus which produced a change in behavior? Behavior is…

...more likely to occur

☐ Positive Reinforcement

☐ Negative Reinforcement

...less likely to occur

☐ Punishment by Addition

☐ Punishment by Removal

4. A prisoner was given additional privileges due to good behavior.

What is the behavior? ______________________________________

What is the stimulus? _______________________________________

What is the stimulus which produced a change in behavior? Behavior is…

...more likely to occur

☐ Positive Reinforcement

☐ Negative Reinforcement

...less likely to occur

☐ Punishment by Addition

☐ Punishment by Removal
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5. Jose’s auto insurance premiums went up when he received a 3rd point on his record.
   What is the behavior? __________________________________________
   What is the stimulus? _________________________________________
   What is the stimulus which produced a change in behavior? Behavior is…
   …more likely to occur
   □ Positive Reinforcement
   □ Negative Reinforcement
   …less likely to occur
   □ Punishment by Addition
   □ Punishment by Removal

6. When Abdul arrived home to find dinner ready, he graciously thanked his wife.
   What is the behavior? _________________________________________
   What is the stimulus? _________________________________________
   What is the stimulus that produces a change in behavior?
   …more likely to occur
   □ Positive Reinforcement
   □ Negative Reinforcement
   …less likely to occur
   □ Punishment by Addition
   □ Punishment by Removal

7. Sophia refused to go to piano lessons so she did not get dessert that evening.
   What is the behavior? _________________________________________
   What is the stimulus? _________________________________________
   What is the stimulus which produced a change in behavior? Behavior is…
   …more likely to occur
   □ Positive Reinforcement
   □ Negative Reinforcement
   …less likely to occur
   □ Punishment by Addition
   □ Punishment by Removal
8. Ellie’s eyes are very sensitive to sunlight so she puts her glasses on when she goes out.

What is the behavior? ____________________________

What is the stimulus? ____________________________

What is the stimulus which produced a change in behavior? Behavior is…

…more likely to occur

☐ Positive Reinforcement
☐ Negative Reinforcement

…less likely to occur

☐ Punishment by Addition
☐ Punishment by Removal