



PHYSIOLOGY

(Questions and Answers)

Name:

Institution:



Tolman's Experiment

The young Albert feared rats because he associated it with a loud bang. I were a clinical psychologist, I would extinguish his classically conditioned fear of the rat by pairing the rat with a different pleasant object which he did not fear. Examples of such objects include warm wool and attractively colored toys.

In my extinction procedure, I will pair the two stimuli: that rat and an attractive toy which Albert seemed to love the most. Every time I present the rat to him, the toy will follow as the second stimulus instead of a loud scaring bang. This conditional procedure will be repeated consistently until Albert outgrows his conditioned fear for rats.

Independent variable in Tolman's experiment was the food reward while the dependent variables were the speed and direction of rats in the maze.

Having constantly received a food reward at the end of the maze, all rats in Group 1 headed straight to the end of the maze.

On the contrary, rats in Group 2 did not take a particular path towards the end of the maze because they never received any food reward.

According to the principles of behaviorism, rats in Group 1 took a straight path towards the end of the maze in a timely manner because they were adequately stimulated.

Although Rats in Group 3 did not receive any food reward during the experiment, they learned to arrive at the end of the maze on the eleventh day.

Unlike rats in Group 1, Group 3 learnt the path to the end of the maze on the eleventh and twelfth days upon the provision of food. Thereafter, they took straight path to reach the end of the maze within the shortest time possible.



Most interestingly, rats in Group 3 permanently learnt the path and would reach the end of the maze within a very short time without any food reward.

It could be assumed that rats in Group 2 wandered around the maze on their way to the designated end looking for food.

If Tolman were to include the fourth group of rats that received food reward daily for the first ten days, the group would not reach the end of the maze with speed in the absence of food; the rats would keep on wandering around the maze after the tenth day. The subsequent wandering of rats in Group 4 is attributed to the fact that behavior of the rats had not been permanently modified in the experiment.

