Exam 1 – sample graded responses to two items

5. Identify the following concept **and** explain its importance in our study of Psychology this term: **Token Identity Theory.**

RESPONSE EVALUATED AS A

The Token Identity Theory is the idea that a specific instance of a mental state can be related to a specific instance of a neurological state. The significance of this concept to our study of Psychology is that depending on whether this theory or its closely related sibling Type Identity Theory is correct, Psychology may or may not be just a temporary study until neuroscience has honed its craft to the point where it can identify mental states with neurological states. If Token Identity Theory is correct and not its relative, then Psychology is allowed to persist because even if a neuroscientist might be able to identify a particular mental state of a particular time with a certain neurological state at the corresponding time - for instance, thinking that "{doughnuts are delicious" on my way to school - that idea will not be corresponding to the same mental state the next time I think that thought. If Type Identity theory is correct then when I think "doughnuts are delicious" in the morning it is the same as when I think the same thought later that evening. This would mean that we could eradicate referencing mental states in favor of simply saying "Patient X is in neurological state Y" consequently eliminating the need for Psychology.

RESPONSE EVALUATED AS B/B+ BORDERLINE

This concept of type and token relate to the idea of how our minds work and how thoughts relate to neurological phenomena/events in the brain. If our minds worked like a 'type' then every time we had a thought about, let's say cake, then the exact same neurological event would take place. Token, however, says that although one thought creates a neurological phenomenon today, the next time you think that thought you will have a different neurological event, versus the same one every time. In class we related this to the idea of psychology and whether it's truly needed, in the sense that if we all have the same neurological events happening all the time then why study it? Nothing will change and we know everything. Token theory allows a future for psychological study. However, you can also relate this theory to other concepts like AI (artificial intelligence). If humans are a 'type' then realistically we should be able to create an artificial brain that mimics all thoughts and events in the same way.

RESPONSE EVALUATED AS C

Token Identity theory is the theory that with the same stimulus, you will have the same response each and every time; meaning that with each stimulus, there is a set neurological response. Freud would be a supporter of the Token Identity Theory. In relation to the Token Identity Theory, there is also Type Identity Theory. Type Identity Theory is the theory that there is not one set response to each stimulus; the response to the same stimulus will be different each time. A good example of this is of children in the kitchen. With type identity theory, when a child sees a hot pot of boiling water on the stove, they are curious and may have different thoughts such as "I wonder what is in the pot" or "I wonder what it is I will be eating later and if I will like it". In token identity theory, every time a child is curious and touches that pot of boiling water, they will react with fear and distress over the heat that has caused them pain, each and every time.

6. Describe one experiment that has been presented in the course readings or lectures. Include a short statement of the purpose of the experiment, identify the independent and dependent variable(s) in the experiment, and mention any control procedures used.

RESPONSE EVALUATED AS A

One experiment that was presented in the course was the experiment trying to verify unconscious mental processes. The idea was that there were three groups of people. Every group had an ambiguous sentence like "The man put out the lantern" that could have multiple meanings spoken to them through one side of headphones. The first group of people were told to only focus on what the ambiguous sentence was saying while simultaneously on the other side of the headphones a sentence that gave meaning to the ambiguous sentence, such as "The man extinguished the lantern", was played. The second group of people were given the exact same test except the influencing non-ambiguous sentence was changed to something like "The man put the lantern outside." The third group did not have the non-ambiguous sentence played. The subject of all the groups were then questioned on the meaning of the ambiguous sentence as well as what the other sentence was saying. If the groups gave meaning that correlated to the meaning of the non-ambiguous sentence, without actually being able to tell what the non-ambiguous sentence said, then that gives evidence to unconscious mental processes. The independent variable in this experiment was what the ambiguous and non-ambiguous sentence were actually saying as well as perhaps the volume of each individual sentence. The dependent variable was what meaning the subject gave to the ambiguous sentence. The control procedures were the questions asked about the sentence they weren't supposed to focus on to make sure they didn't consciously hear it.

RESPONSE EVALUATED AS B

The experiment I will be analyzing is that of The Incredible Shrinking Room by DeLoache. The aim of this experiment was to understand child development of observational learning and identification of rational thoughts/statements. The controlled procedure in this experiment was: children were given the task to locate the teddy bear in two different houses; they were told that one of the houses was actual size and the other was going to be the same house though shrunken down in size using their shrinking machine.

- Independent Variable (the stimulus, the thing that was manipulated throughout the experiment): the "shrinking" room and what was told to the children.
- Controlled Variable: which house was used (actual size or "shrunken") and the placement of the teddy bear
- Dependent Variable (response): the child's response, meaning whether they were able to find the teddy bear or not and their reaction to the "shrinking" room

RESPONSE EVALUATED AS C

An experiment that greatly explains the S-R Responses is Pavlov's experiment on dogs salivating. In a series of tests, Pavlov would examine the way dogs would salivate at the sight of food and try to associate the ringing of a bell to food and see if it generates the same response. Independent variables would include the dogs salivating at the sight of food. Dependent variables would be whether or not the dogs would salivate after hearing the bell when being conditioned to associate it with food.