

Psychology of the Natural World

Psychology · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. Which avian species has demonstrated the ability to use 'episodic-like memory' to recall the specific 'what, where, and when' of food caching?

- A) *Corvus corax*
- B) *Aphelocoma californica*
- C) *Cyanocitta cristata*
- D) *Pica pica*

2. In the study of 'umwelt' as proposed by Jakob von Uexküll, what does the term refer to in an animal's psychology?

- A) The evolutionary history of the species
- B) The self-centered world as perceived by the organism
- C) The social hierarchy of a pack
- D) The genetic coding of instincts

3. Which psychological phenomenon explains why captive animals often exhibit repetitive, invariant behavior patterns known as stereotypies?

- A) Environmental enrichment deprivation
- B) Operant conditioning reversal
- C) Social facilitation failure
- D) Habituation to humans

4. What is the primary psychological function of 'alarm calling' in social animals like vervet monkeys?

- A) To attract a mate
- B) To warn conspecifics of specific predator types
- C) To claim territory boundaries
- D) To establish dominance in a hierarchy

5. In the study of 'Biophilia', what does Edward O. Wilson hypothesize about human psychology?

- A) Humans have an innate tendency to seek connections with nature
- B) Humans fear nature due to evolutionary trauma
- C) Humans are indifferent to environmental stimuli
- D) Humans perceive nature only as a resource

6. What cognitive capacity is displayed by cleaner wrasse fish when they pass the mirror self-recognition test?

- A) Self-awareness
- B) Spatial navigation
- C) Complex language
- D) Tool usage

7. Which psychological concept explains why certain species, such as honeybees, learn to associate specific floral odors with nectar rewards?

- A) Classical conditioning
- B) Latent learning
- C) Insight learning
- D) Imprinting

8. What do researchers call the form of communication where chimpanzees adjust their signaling based on the knowledge state of the receiver?

- A) Theory of Mind
- B) Reflexive mimicry
- C) Operant signaling
- D) Social projection

9. The 'niche construction' theory in evolutionary psychology suggests that organisms do what?

- A) Modify their environment to alter selective pressures
- B) Compete only with members of their own species
- C) Remain passive to environmental changes
- D) Migrate only during extreme weather

10. In the psychological study of 'neophobia' in animals, what is the primary behavioral observation?

- A) A preference for familiar food sources
- B) A fear of new, unfamiliar objects or food
- C) An obsession with social status
- D) Aggression toward same-sex rivals

11. Which neurological structure in birds is thought to be the functional equivalent of the mammalian neocortex for higher-order cognition?

- A) The nidopallium
- B) The cerebellum
- C) The brainstem
- D) The medulla oblongata

12. What does the 'Optimal Foraging Theory' predict about an animal's psychological decision-making?

- A) Animals maximize energy intake per unit time
- B) Animals choose the most colorful food
- C) Animals always prioritize social bonding over eating
- D) Animals forage only during daylight hours

13. Which species is known for utilizing 'referential signaling' to indicate the precise location of food sources through complex dances?

- A) *Apis mellifera*
- B) Formicidae
- C) *Dolphinus delphis*
- D) *Elephas maximus*

14. What is the psychological effect known as 'habituation' in animals exposed to constant, non-threatening human presence?

- A) Decreased responsiveness to a stimulus
- B) Increased aggression
- C) Enhanced learning speed
- D) Loss of memory

15. The study of 'animal personality' usually refers to consistency in which aspect of behavior?

- A) Individual differences in behavioral traits over time
- B) Only temporary emotional states
- C) Random social interactions
- D) Physical growth rates

16. What mechanism allows migratory birds to perform 'navigational mapping' during long-distance travel?

- A) Magnetoreception
- B) Olfactory memory only
- C) Auditory cues
- D) Visual mimicry

17. What does the 'Social Intelligence Hypothesis' suggest about the evolution of brain size?

- A) Large brains evolved to navigate complex social relationships
- B) Large brains evolved solely for tool use
- C) Large brains are a byproduct of cold climate adaptation
- D) Large brains evolved for predator evasion only

18. Which experimental design is used to measure 'delayed gratification' in animals such as primates and corvids?

- A) The Intertemporal Choice Task
- B) The Skinner Box
- C) The Pavlovian paradigm
- D) The Mirror test