Classical Conditioning Worksheet

Name:	Date:

This worksheet is an educational tool designed to help you grasp the principles of classical conditioning.

Defining classical conditioning

Carefully define and explain the key components of classical conditioning in the context of a specific example or scenario. For each component, describe its role and relationship to the conditioning process. Use complete sentences where possible.

Neutral stimulus (NS):

Unconditioned stimulus (UCS):

Unconditioned response (UCR):

Conditioned stimulus (CS):

Conditioned response (CR):

Identifying key components

For each scenario provided below, identify the NS, UCS, UCR, CS, and CR. Understand the sequence of events and identify the key elements involved in classical conditioning. Look for the stimulus and response patterns described.

For each component, briefly explain why you have identified it as such based on the scenario provided.

Scenario 1: Sarah had always been calm when she heard the sound of the bell ringing at the end of each class. However, after several weeks of hearing the bell immediately followed by the loud ringing of the fire alarm, she began to feel anxious whenever the bell rang. The loud fire alarm naturally caused her to feel fear and tension. Over time, the sound of the bell alone, without the fire alarm, started to make Sarah feel the same sense of anxiety. The bell, which initially had no emotional effect, became a signal that triggered her fear, as she had learned to associate it with the distressing sound of the alarm.

NS:

UCS:

UCR:

CS:

CR:

Scenario 2: Tom had always loved playing with his dog, Max, in the backyard. Every time he picked up a tennis ball, Max would immediately get excited and run around, eagerly waiting for Tom to throw it. This excitement was because Max loved playing fetch, which was naturally rewarding for him. However, one day, after Tom picked up the ball, he accidentally dropped it on Max's paw, causing Max to yelp and get startled. After this incident, every time Tom picked up the tennis ball, Max would immediately show signs of fear, such as backing away or looking apprehensive, even though Tom was not going to drop it on his paw again.

NS:

UCS:

UCR:

CS:

Applying the principles

Create a realistic scenario where classical conditioning is at play, describing the process and predicting the outcome. Predict the response based on the scenario and briefly reflect on how such learned associations could influence behavior in real-life contexts, such as forming habits, preferences, or aversions.

Your scenario:

The predicted response:

Behavior analysis

Assess a real-life or hypothetical behavior to determine if classical conditioning can explain it and identify the conditions under which it occurs. Discuss whether the behavior fits the model of classical conditioning and identify factors such as repetition, timing, and context that would influence the learning process.

Behavior to analyze:

Analysis: