

Physical and Behavioral Traits Study Guide

Test on January 23, 2018

Section A. Vocabulary - Know the following terms and be able to apply them to the correct context.

1. Learned behavior - Things that an organism learned to do by interacting with its environment
3. Instinctual behavior - Things that an organism knows to do to survive
4. Inherited traits - Traits that an organism inherits from its parents
5. Acquired traits - Traits that an organism gains throughout its lifetime
6. Environment – The habitat in which organisms live
7. Offspring - A new organism produced by one or more parents
8. Heredity - The passing of traits from parents to offspring

Section B. Open Response - Be able to respond to the following questions with a paragraph with evidence to support your reasoning.

1. How can you tell whether a behavior was learned or inherited?

Answers will vary. A behavior that is inherited is one that requires no instruction. The animal could perform it without ever seeing another animal doing it. A learned behavior must either be figured out by trial and error or by some instruction from a parent.

2. Suppose a dog barks when a stranger comes near his home, but the dog also barks when his owner speaks to him. Which behavior is probably learned and which is an inherited instinct?

Answers may vary. It is most likely an inherited instinct when the dog barks at a stranger. It is most likely a learned behavior when the dog barks at his master; the master probably taught the dog to bark in response to him.

3. Identify the learned behaviors this dog must be taught in order to be an effective guide dog. Then, describe at least three identifiable inherited traits you can see in a given photograph.

Answers may vary. The dog must learn where it is safe to go, like not leading someone in front of a car, and must learn to follow the person's directions. Inherited traits include fur color, fur length, breed, and eye color.

Section C – Multiple Choice Be able to identify many examples of inherited traits and learned behaviors for different organisms. Be able to ask good questions to determine whether or not a specific organism's trait is inherited or acquired