

Pavlov's Classical Conditioning

A must-know for Psychology Entrance Exams



Sample MCQs For Psychology Entrances

Let's have a quick look at the questions that might appear in your exams from this topic!

Q1. In Pavlov's experiment, extinction occurs when:

- a) The UCS is presented alone
- b) The UCR no longer occurs in response to UCS
- c) The CS is repeatedly presented without the UCS
- d) The CR strengthens over repeated pairings

Q2. Which statement is NOT correct about Pavlov's Classical Conditioning?

- a) Learning occurs through the association of stimuli
- b) It explains both voluntary and involuntary behaviors
- c) Extinction does not erase learning permanently
- d) It is a form of associative learning



Read the complete post carefully and try to find the answers.

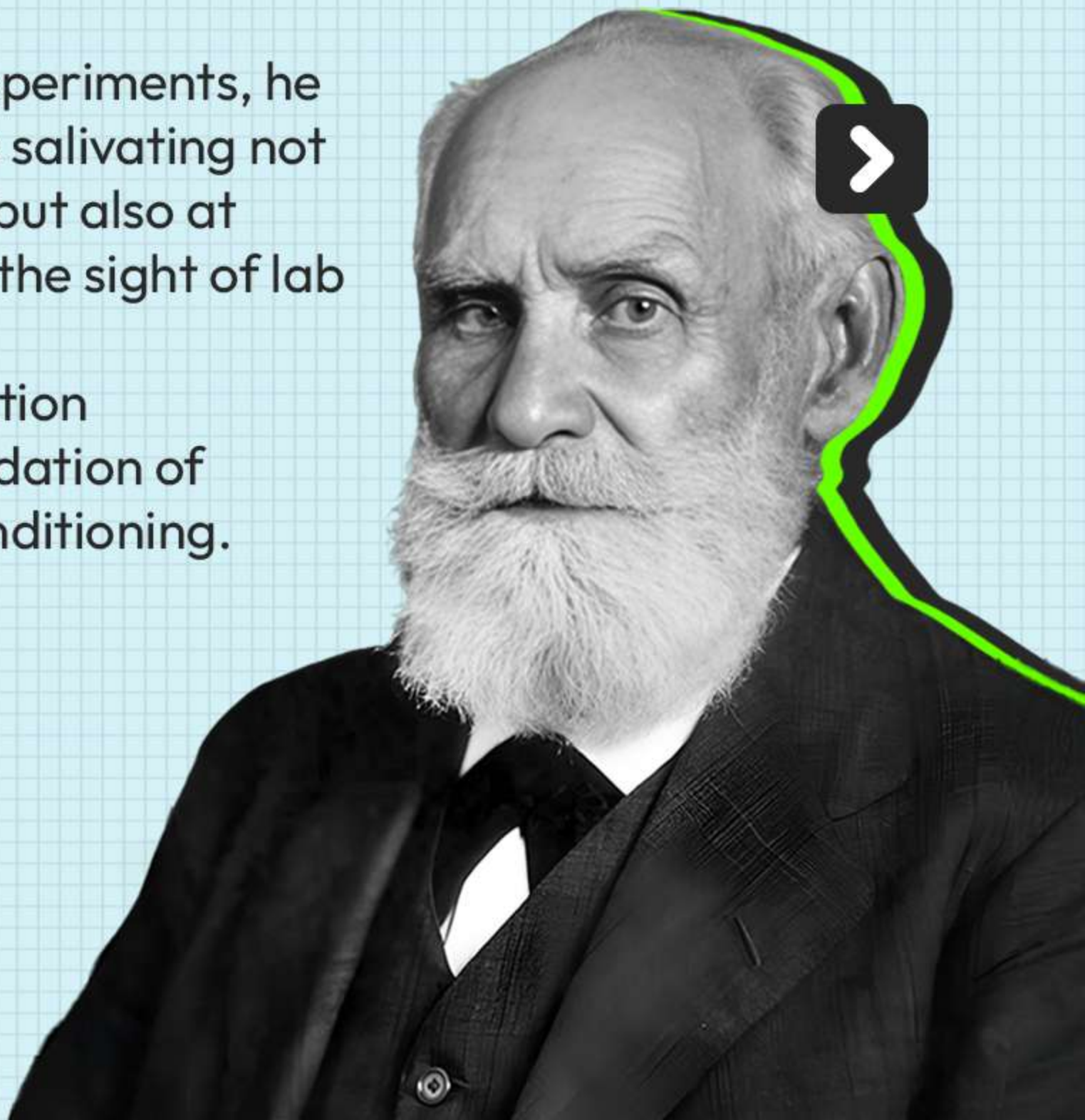
If you can't, answers are revealed in the last slide.

The Beginning

Ivan Pavlov, a Russian physiologist, was originally studying digestion in dogs.

During his experiments, he noticed dogs salivating not just at food, but also at footsteps or the sight of lab assistants →

This observation laid the foundation of Classical Conditioning.



Key Terms



Unconditioned Stimulus (UCS):

Naturally triggers a response (e.g., food).



Unconditioned Response (UCR):

Natural reaction to UCS (e.g., salivation to food).



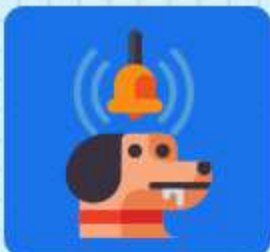
Neutral Stimulus (NS):

Does not trigger a response initially (e.g., bell sound).



Conditioned Stimulus (CS):

Previously neutral, now associated with UCS (bell after pairing with food).



Conditioned Response (CR):

Learned response to CS (salivation to bell).

The Process of Conditioning



Before Conditioning:
UCS → UCR; NS → No response.



During Conditioning:
NS + UCS → UCR.



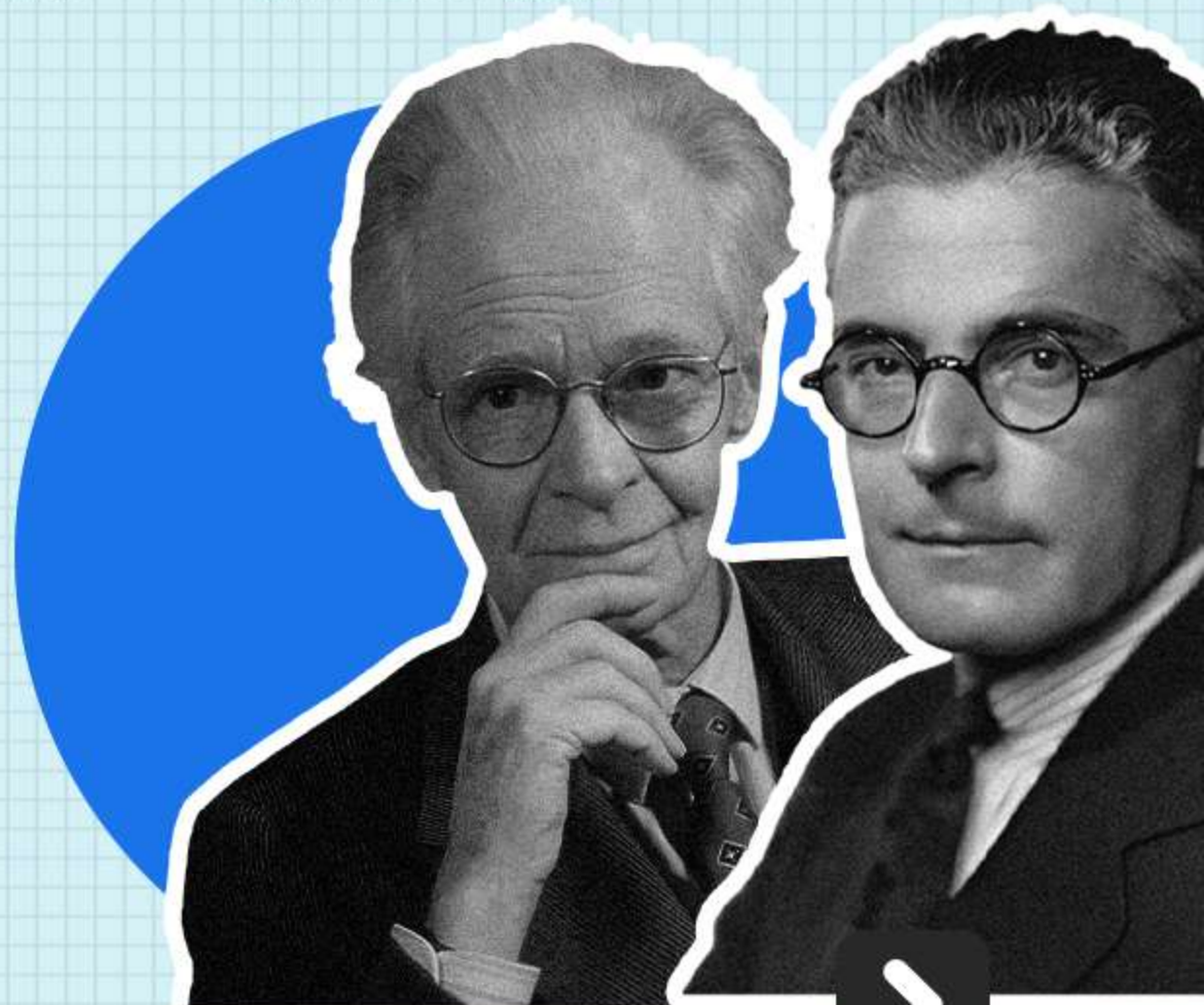
After Conditioning: CS → CR.

This sequence is central to exam questions,
so memorize the flow clearly.

Principles of Classical Conditioning



- **Acquisition:** Learning phase when NS pairs with UCS.
- **Extinction:** CR weakens when CS is repeatedly presented without UCS.
- **Spontaneous Recovery:** Reappearance of CR after rest period.
- **Generalization:** Similar stimuli trigger CR.
- **Discrimination:** Ability to respond only to specific CS.



Pavlov vs. Other Learning Theories

- Pavlov's work = foundation of behaviorism.
- Inspired **John Watson's** Little Albert experiment → fear conditioning.
- Compared with **Skinner's Operant Conditioning:**
 - ☐ Classical = association between stimuli.
 - ☐ Operant = learning through consequences (reward/punishment).

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The correct answers are:

Q.1 c) The CS is repeatedly presented without the UCS

Q.2 b) It explains both voluntary and involuntary behaviors