

Readiness to learn and Motivation

Learning occurs more efficiently if a person is ready to learn. This readiness results from a combination of growth and experience. Children cannot learn to read until their eyes and nervous systems are mature enough. They also must have a sufficient background of spoken words and pre-reading experience with letters and pictures.

Learning is recognized to be best when the learner is motivated. External rewards are often used to increase motivation to learn. Motivation aroused by external rewards is called extrinsic motivation. In other cases, people are motivated simply by the satisfaction of learning. Motivation that results from such satisfaction is called intrinsic motivation. This type of motivation can be even more powerful than extrinsic motivation. Punishment, particularly the threat of punishment, is also used to control learning. Experiments have shown that intrinsic and extrinsic rewards serve as more effective aids to learning than punishment does. This is due largely to two factors: The first is that learners can recognize the direct effects of reward more easily than they can the effects of punishment. Second, the by-products of reward are more favorable. For example, reward leads to liking the rewarded task, but punishment leads to dislike of the punished deed.

Educators also look at the motivation of learning from the point of view of the learner. They tend to talk about success and failure, rather than reward and punishment. Success consists of reaching a goal that learners set for themselves. Failure consists of not reaching the goal. An ideal learning situation is one in which learners set progressively more difficult goals for themselves, and keep at the task until they succeed.

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A- Answer the following questions according to the text:

04pts

- 1) Explain the role of readiness in learning.
- 2) How would you contrast extrinsic and intrinsic learning?
- 3) What works best, reward or punishment? Explain.
- 4) Why do psychologists tend to talk about success and failure, rather than reward and punishment?

B- Find in the text, the words whose definitions follow:

02pts

- 1) one's past know-how: ...
- 2) returns made for something done:
- 3) originating outside the part on which it acts:
- 4) model to be imitated:

C- Complete the following table as shown in the example.

1.5pts

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
power	to empower	powerful	powerfully
.....			largely
.....	to talk		
success			

D- Express the following sentence starting by the words given.

01pt

External rewards are often used to increase motivation to learn.
Educators

E- Supply the right phonetic transcription to the following words:

02pts

combination - motivation - Experiments - progressively

F- Explain the following statements:

01pt

- 1) Reward leads to liking the rewarded task, but punishment leads to dislike of the punished deed.
- 2) An ideal learning situation is one in which learners set progressively more difficult goals for themselves, and keep at the task until they succeed.

G- Fill in each gap with one word so that the text makes sense.

03pts

When we learn skills, we first learn a sequence of simple movement-patterns. We combine these ...1... to form a more complicated behavior pattern. In most ...2..., various stimuli guide the process. For example, operating a ...3... requires putting together many skilled finger movements. These movements are guided by the letters or words that we ...4... to type. At first, a person ...5... to type letter by letter. With practice, the person learns to type word by word or phrase by phrase. In verbal learning, such as memorizing a poem or learning a new language, we learn ...6... of words. We then combine these sequences of responses into a complex organization.

H- Write a coherent paragraph of ten sentences giving four reasons why you like learning.

05.5pts