AP Psychology – Chapter 7 Essay Questions

Essay Questions:

1. There is no doubt that we can categorize objects. Find an object in the room that you are presently sitting in and categorize it. Explain how you may have categorized that object using defining features and prototypes. Define the two terms first before explaining by use of them.

2. The authors of your textbook state that there are hierarchies of concepts. Identify and describe the three levels. Select any three objects and state how each object relates to the three levels.

3. Does culture affect how objects are categorized? In a similar respect, do universals exist across cultures? Explain your answer.

4. Reasoning can be either inductive, deductive, or by analogy. What is the difference between the two? Give an example of each type of reasoning. Do NOT use the examples given in the chapter.

5. Everyday, we encounter many problems, some small and some big. In addition, some problems are easy to solve while others are extremely difficult. Differentiate between well-defined and ill-defined problems. Give examples of each.

6. Everyday we all find ourselves facing problems. In order to solve those problems, we make use of strategies that sometimes do not work. What are problem solving strategies? Identify and describe the two problem solving strategies presented in the textbook. Also, in what two ways do problem solving strategies go awry?

7. Individuals who use the metaphor “the mind is a computer” tend to use the term heuristic like it is a common word. Define the term heuristic as it is used in problem solving and give an example of a representativeness heuristic and an availability heuristic. Make sure you define the latter two terms.

8. The changes in how psychologists think about decision making and problem-solving stem, in part, from the difference between explicit cognition and implicit cognition. Define these two terms and then identify and briefly describe additional concepts that each entails.

9. What is the relationship between the nervous system and thinking? First, identify the two major areas of the brain associated with thinking. Second, if those two areas were damaged, what would a professor be like?

10. What do we know about the capabilities of non-humans to learn language? Make sure you discuss the differences in ability between chimpanzees and bonobos.