

ABA Cheat Sheet

ABA Cheat Sheet

ABCs of Behavior / Three -Term Contingency

A = antecedent = before a behavior
B = behavior = action that causes a change in the environment
C = consequence = comes after a behavior

4 Functions of Behavior

Memory device: "EATS / SEAT"

S = sensory / automatic

E = escape / avoidance

A = attention / connection

T = tangibles / attaining

Stimulus Relations

Transitional: A=A (untrained)

Transitional: A=B, so B=A

Transitional: B, B=C, so A=C

SD vs. SA

SD = discriminative stimulus =

reinforcement is available

SA = s-delta = reinforcement

is not available

IV vs. DV

IV = independent variable =

the manipulated variable, the

intervention

DV = dependent variable = the

observed variable, the one

that could change

Stimulus & Behavior & Response

Stimulus = any energy that affects 1 or more senses

Stimulus class = group of stimuli w/ similarity in physical, temporal,

functional dimension

Behavior = action or response that affects the environment

Response = occurrence of a behavior

Response class = group of responses that serve the same function

Motivating Operations

MO = motivating operation = changes effectiveness of a

reinforcer or punisher + influences frequency of the behavior

EO = establishing operation = increases effectiveness of reinforcer

or punisher

AO = abolishing operation = decreases effectiveness of reinforcer

or punisher

UMO = unconditioned motivating operation = MO that does not

have to be learned (hunger, thirst)

CMO = conditioned motivating operation = MO that is learned

CMO-S = surrogate CMO = MO learned by being associated with a UMO

CMO-T = transitive CMO = event that creates its own desire for a

particular thing (clogged toilet = increased desire to flush)

CMO-R = reflexive CMO = comes before a well-learned response

improvement (e.g. pet carrier = vet trip)

Continuous vs. Discontinuous Measurement

Continuous measures

Count = Number of occurrences

Rate = Number of occurrences w/ respect to time

Duration = Length of start to end of a behavior

Latency = Length of time from stimulus to a behavior

Interresponse time (IRT) = Length of time between end of a response

and start of a second response (of the same response class)

Acceleration = Acceleration or deceleration of response rates over time

Discontinuous measures

Whole interval recording = Mark if behavior occurred throughout the

entire interval or not (underestimates the behavior)

Partial interval recording = Mark if a behavior occurred at any point

during the interval or not (overestimates the behavior)

Momentary time sampling = Mark if behavior is occurring or not at

the end of an interval

Planned Activity Check (PLACHECK) = Mark the number of learners in

a group engaged in a response at the end of an interval

Positive vs. Negative + Reinforcement vs. Punishment

Positive = addition of a stimulus

Negative = removal of a stimulus

Reinforcement = future increase in frequency of behavior

Punishment = future decrease in frequency of behavior

7 Dimensions of ABA

Memory device: "BATCAGE / GETACAB"

A = applied = important to person and/or society

B = behavioral = can be precisely measured + change can be

identified

A = analytic = functional relationship / control demonstrated

T = technological = intervention components fully listed / described

C = conceptually systematic = relate back to prior knowledge

E = effective = degree of change is socially important

G = generality = extends across time, behaviors, settings

6 Attitudes of Science

Memory device: "DEERPP"

D = determinism = universe obeys laws, things happen

and can be studied

E = empiricism = study of objective observations through data

E = experimentation = using experimental

variable to assess effect of intervention

R = replication = repeat

P = parsimony = simpler explanation

P = philosophic doubt = questioning (skeptical)

Simple Schedules of Reinforcement

FI = fixed interval = Reinforcement provided after behavior occurs

after specific interval time passes

FR = fixed ratio = Reinforcement provided after behavior occurs

after specific number of responses

FT = fixed time = Reinforcement provided after specific

time passes (not contingent on behavior)

VI = variable interval = Reinforcement provided after behavior occurs

after average interval time passes

VR = variable ratio = Reinforcement provided after behavior occurs

after average number of responses

VT = variable time = Reinforcement provided after average

length of time passes (not contingent on behavior)

Verbal Operants

Mand = controlled by MO, followed by specific

Tact = controlled by nonverbal SD, followed by

conditioned reinforcement

Intraverbal = controlled by verbal SD, no point-to-point

correspondence

Echoic = repeating another person's behavior, point-to-point

correspondence + formal similarity

Textual behavior = the act of reading (not necessarily

comprehending), point-to-point correspondence but no formal

similarity

Transcription = writing down what is heard, point-to-point

correspondence but no formal similarity

Copying a text = writing down what is read, point-to-point

correspondence and formal similarity

13 Topics

Exam prep tool

Easy to understand

Print and go

Totally FREE!

Copyright ©2025 AllDayABA

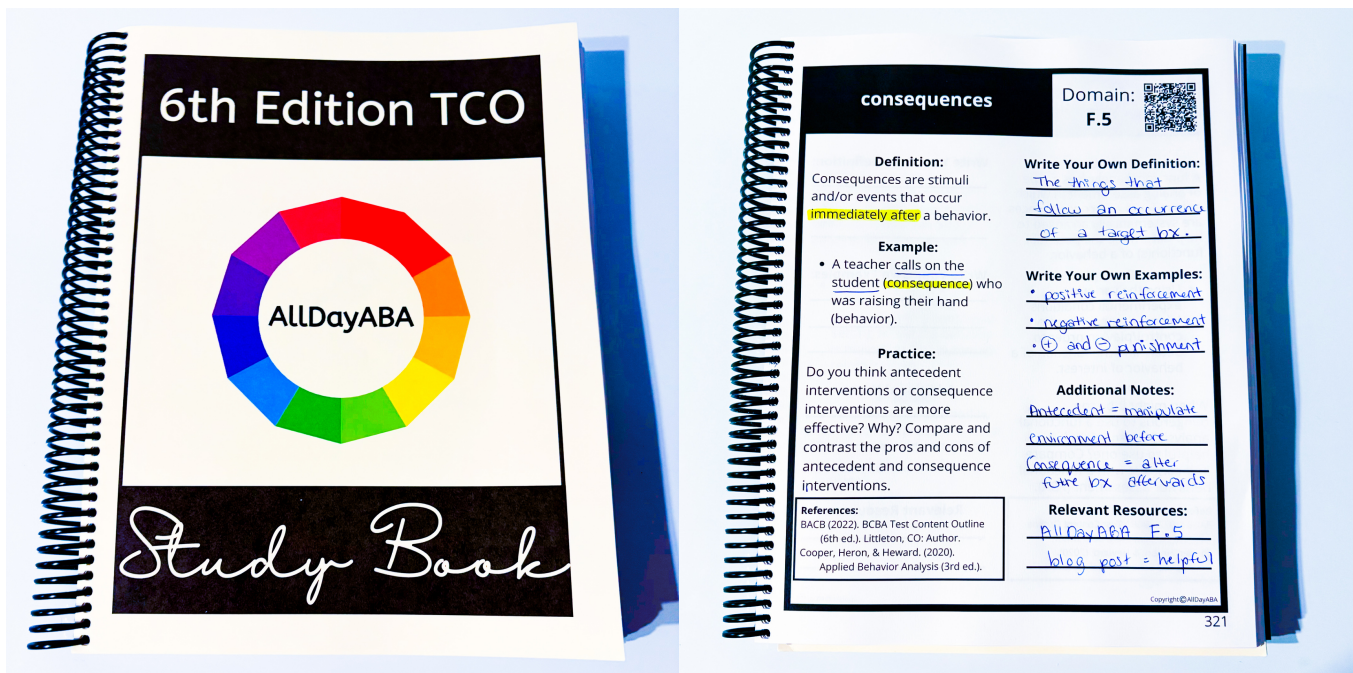


13 Topics, 67 Terms

Thank you for downloading!

Click below to find more helpful study materials for you, your supervisees, and more.

Click to make studying easy



Supplemental Blog Posts

Click below to read supplemental blog posts that will help you dive deeper on each of the topics in this cheat sheet.

Part 1: [The ABCs of Behavior](#)

Part 2: [Reinforcement and Punishment](#)

Part 3: [The Four Functions of Behavior](#)

Part 4: [SD vs. S-Delta](#)

Part 5: [The Seven Dimensions of ABA](#)

Part 6: [Emergent Stimulus Relations](#)

Part 7: [Independent vs. Dependent Variables](#)

Part 8: [The Six Attitudes of Science](#)

Part 9: [Motivating Operations](#)

Part 10: [Stimulus vs. Behavior vs. Response](#)

Part 11: [Simple Schedules of Reinforcement](#)

Part 12: [Unconditioned and Conditioned Motivating Operations](#)

Part 13: [Continuous Measurement](#)

Part 14: [Discontinuous Measurement](#)

Part 15: [Verbal Operants](#)

ABA Cheat Sheet

ABCs of Behavior / Three -Term Contingency

A = antecedent = before a behavior

B = behavior = action that causes a change in the environment

C = consequence = comes after a behavior

4 Functions of Behavior

Memory device: "EATS / SEAT"

S = sensory / automatic

E = escape / avoidance

A = attention / connection

T = tangibles / attaining

SD vs. SA

SD = discriminative stimulus = reinforcement is available

SA = s-delta = reinforcement is not available

IV vs. DV

IV = independent variable = the manipulated variable, the intervention

DV = dependent variable = the observed variable, the one that could change

Emergent Stimulus Relations

Reflexivity: A=A (untrained)

Symmetry: A=B, so B=A

Transitivity: A=B, B=C, so A=C

Stimulus & Behavior & Response

Stimulus = change in energy that affects 1 or more senses

Stimulus class = group of stimuli w/ similarity in physical, temporal, and/or functional dimension

Behavior = action of living organism that affects the environment

Response = specific occurrence of a behavior

Response class = group of responses that serve the same function

Motivating Operations

MO = motivating operation = influences effectiveness of a reinforcer or punisher + influences frequency of the behavior

EO = establishing operation = increases effectiveness of reinforcer or punisher

AO = abolishing operation = decreases effectiveness of reinforcer or punisher

UMO = unconditioned motivating operation = MO that does not have to be learned (hunger, thirst, etc.)

CMO = conditioned motivating operation = MO that is learned

CMO-S = surrogate CMO = MO learned by being paired with a UMO

CMO-T = transitive CMO = event that creates increased desire for a particular thing (clogged toilet = increased desire for plunger)

CMO-R = reflexive CMO = comes before a worsening or improvement (e.g. pet carrier = vet trip)

Continuous vs. Discontinuous Measurement

Continuous measures

Count = Number of occurrences

Rate = Number of occurrences w/ respect to time

Duration = Length of start to end of a behavior

Latency = Length of time from stimulus to a behavior

Interresponse time (IRT) = Length of time between end of a response and start of a second response (of the same response class)

Celeration = Acceleration or deceleration of response rates over time

Discontinuous measures

Whole interval recording = Mark if behavior occurred throughout the entire interval or not (underestimates the behavior)

Partial interval recording = Mark if a behavior occurred at any point during the interval or not (overestimates the behavior)

Momentary time sampling = Mark if behavior is occurring or not at the end of an interval

Planned Activity Check (PLACHECK) = Mark the number of learners in a group engaged in a response at the end of an interval

Positive vs. Negative + Reinforcement vs. Punishment

Positive = addition of a stimulus

Negative = removal of a stimulus

Reinforcement = future increase in frequency of behavior

Punishment = future decrease in frequency of behavior

7 Dimensions of ABA

Memory device: "BATCAGE / GETACAB"

A = applied = important to person and/or society

B = behavioral = can be precisely measured + change can be identified

A = analytic = functional relationship / control demonstrated

T = technological = intervention components fully listed / described

C = conceptually systematic = relate back to principles

E = effective = degree of change is socially important

G = generality = extends across time, behaviors, people, and/or settings

6 Attitudes of Science

Memory device: "DEERPP"

D = determinism = universe obeys laws, things happen for a reason and can be studied

E = empiricism = study of objective observations through data

E = experimentation = using experimental method on independent variable to assess effect on dependent variable

R = replication = repeating experiments

P = parsimony = simpler explanation is more likely than complex

P = philosophic doubt = questioning what is accepted as fact (skepticism)

Simple Schedules of Reinforcement

FI = fixed interval = Reinforcement provided after behavior occurs after specific interval time passes

FR = fixed ratio = Reinforcement provided after behavior occurs after specific number of responses

FT = fixed time = Reinforcement provided after specific length of time passes (not contingent on behavior occurring)

VI = variable interval = Reinforcement provided after behavior occurs after average interval time passes

VR = variable ratio = Reinforcement provided after behavior occurs after average number of responses

VT = variable time = Reinforcement provided after average length of time passes (not contingent on behavior occurring)

Verbal Operants

Mand = controlled by MO, followed by specific reinforcement

Tact = controlled by nonverbal SD, followed by generalized conditioned reinforcement

Intraverbal = controlled by verbal SD, no point-to-point correspondence

Echoic = repeating another person's behavior, point-to-point correspondence + formal similarity

Textual behavior = the act of reading (not necessarily comprehending), point-to-point correspondence but no formal similarity

Transcription = writing down what is heard, point-to-point correspondence but no formal similarity

Copying a text = writing down what is read, point-to-point correspondence and formal similarity

Thank you!

Thank you for downloading this AllDayABA resource.

You may use it for personal use within your classroom, clinic, etc. You may NOT use it for commercial use in any form or when creating your own resources.

We would love to connect with you on other platforms!

Click the images below to follow us or send a message.

Click for a freebie!

