

BEHAVIORISM: BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

- The only valid data in psychology is behavior because behavior is observable and can be objectively measured.
- Subjectivity should be eliminated from psychology and methods like introspection abandoned to be replaced with more objective methods.
- Learning can best be understood in terms of external causes rather than internal causes. Mental activities are useless as data.
- Behavior is almost entirely determined by the environment (rather than by heredity/genes), so it is learned (hence the term *learning theory*).
- Simple associations of stimuli or stimulus-response are the building blocks of all behavior, no matter how complex.
- Laws of learning are the same for all species and can be seen in any environment.