

Read the passage.

Paragraph

Aggression

- Aggressive behavior is any behavior that is intended to cause injury, pain, suffering, damage, or destruction. While aggressive behavior is often thought of as purely physical, verbal attacks such as screaming and shouting or belittling and humiliating comments aimed at causing harm and suffering can also be a type of aggression. What is key to the definition of aggression is that whenever harm is inflicted, be it physical or verbal, it is intentional.
- Questions about the causes of aggression have long been of concern to both social and biological scientists. Theories about the causes of aggression cover a broad spectrum, ranging from those with biological or instinctive emphases to those that portray aggression as a learned behavior.
- Numerous theories are based on the idea that aggression is an inherent and natural human instinct. Aggression has been explained as an instinct that is directed externally toward others in a process called **displacement**, and it has been noted that aggressive impulses that are not channeled toward a specific person or group may be expressed indirectly through socially acceptable activities such as sports and competition in a process called **catharsis**. Biological, or instinctive, theories of aggression have also been put forth by **ethologists**, who study the behavior of animals in their natural environments. A number of ethologists have, based upon their observations of animals, supported the view that aggression is an innate instinct common to humans.
- Two different schools of thought exist among those who view aggression as instinct. One group holds the view that aggression can build up spontaneously, with or without outside provocation, and violent behavior will thus result, perhaps as a result of little or no provocation. Another suggests that aggression is indeed an instinctive response but that, rather than occurring spontaneously and without provocation, it is a direct response to provocation from an outside source.
- In contrast to instinct theories, social learning theories view aggression as a learned behavior. This approach focuses on the effect that role models and reinforcement of behavior have on the acquisition of aggressive behavior. Research has shown that aggressive behavior can be learned through a combination of modeling and positive reinforcement of the aggressive behavior and that children are influenced by the combined forces of observing aggressive behavior in parents, peers, or fictional role models and of noting either positive reinforcement for the aggressive behavior or, minimally, a lack of negative reinforcement for the behavior. While research has provided evidence that the behavior of a live model is more influential than that of a fictional model, fictional models of aggressive behavior such as those seen in movies and on television, do still have an impact on behavior. On-screen deaths or acts of violent behavior in certain television programs or movies can be counted in the tens, or hundreds, or even thousands; while some have argued that this sort of fictional violence does not in and of itself cause violence and may even have a beneficial cathartic effect, studies have shown correlations between viewing of violence and incidences of aggressive behavior in both childhood and adolescence. Studies have also shown that it is not just the modeling of aggressive behavior in either its real-life or fictional form that correlates with increased acts of violence in youths; a critical factor in increasing aggressive behaviors is the reinforcement of the behavior. If the aggressive role model is rewarded rather than punished for violent behavior, that behavior is more likely to be seen as positive and is thus more likely to be imitated.

Refer to this version of the passage to answer the questions that follow.

Paragraph

Aggression

- Aggressive behavior is any behavior that is intended to cause injury, pain, suffering, damage, or destruction. While aggressive behavior is often thought of as purely physical, verbal attacks such as screaming and shouting or **belittling and humiliating comments** aimed at causing harm and suffering can also be a type of aggression. What is key to the definition of aggression is that whenever harm is inflicted, be it physical or verbal, it is **intentional**.
- Questions about the causes of aggression have long been of concern to both social and biological scientists. **Theories about the causes of aggression cover a broad spectrum, ranging from those with biological or instinctive emphases to those that portray aggression as a learned behavior.**
- Numerous theories are based on the idea that aggression is an inherent and natural human instinct. **8A** Aggression has been explained as an instinct that is directed externally toward others in a process called **displacement**, and it has been noted that aggressive impulses that are not channeled toward a specific person or group may be expressed indirectly through socially acceptable activities such as sports and competition in a process called **catharsis**. **8B** Biological, or instinctive, theories of aggression have also been put forth by **ethologists**, who study the behavior of animals in their natural environments. **8C** A number of ethologists have, based upon their observations of animals, supported the view that aggression is an innate instinct common to humans. **8D**
- Two different **schools of thought** exist among those who view aggression as instinct. One group holds the view that aggression can build up spontaneously, with or without outside provocation, and violent behavior will thus result, perhaps as a result of little or no provocation. Another suggests that aggression is indeed an instinctive response but that, rather than occurring spontaneously and without provocation, **it** is a direct response to provocation from an outside source.
- **In contrast to instinct theories**, social learning theories view aggression as a learned behavior. This approach focuses on the effect that role models and reinforcement of behavior have on the acquisition of aggressive behavior. **Research has shown that aggressive behavior can be learned through a combination of modeling and positive reinforcement of the aggressive behavior and that children are influenced by the combined forces of observing aggressive behavior in parents, peers, or fictional role models and of noting either positive reinforcement for the aggressive behavior or, minimally, a lack of negative reinforcement for the behavior.** While research has provided evidence that the behavior of a live model is more influential than **that** of a fictional model, fictional models of aggressive behavior such as those seen in movies and on television, do still have an impact on behavior. **18A** On-screen deaths or acts of violent behavior in certain television programs or movies can be counted in the tens, or hundreds, or even thousands; while some have argued that this sort of fictional violence does not **in and of itself** cause violence and may even have a beneficial cathartic effect, studies have shown correlations between viewing of violence and incidences of aggressive behavior in both childhood and adolescence. **18B** Studies have also shown that it is not just the modeling of aggressive behavior in either its real-life or fictional form that correlates with increased acts of violence in youths; a **critical** factor in increasing aggressive behaviors is the reinforcement of the behavior. **18C** If the aggressive role model is rewarded rather than punished for violent behavior, that behavior is more likely to be seen as positive and is thus more likely to be imitated. **18D**

Questions

- Which of the following is NOT defined as aggressive behavior?
 - Inflicting pain accidentally
 - Making insulting remarks
 - Destroying property
 - Trying unsuccessfully to injure someone
- The author mentions "belittling and humiliating comments" in paragraph 1 in order to
 - demonstrate how serious the problem of aggression is
 - clarify the difference between intentional and unintentional aggression
 - provide examples of verbal aggression
 - illustrate the nature of physical aggression
- The word "intentional" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to
 - deliberate
 - estimated
 - forbidden
 - intermittent
- Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 2? *Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.*
 - Biological theories of aggression emphasize its instinctive nature.
 - Theories that consider aggression biological are more accepted than those that consider it learned.
 - Various theories about aggression attribute it to either natural or learned causes.
 - Various theories try to compare the idea that aggression is biological with the idea that it is learned.
- According to paragraph 3, displacement is
 - internally directed aggression
 - a modeled type of aggression
 - aggression that is unintentional
 - aggression that is directed outward
- It can be inferred from paragraph 3 that catharsis
 - is a positive process
 - involves channeling aggression internally
 - is studied by ethologists
 - should be negatively reinforced
- An ethologist would be most likely to study
 - learned catharsis in a certain species of monkey
 - the evolution of a certain type of fish
 - the bone structure of a certain type of dinosaur
 - the manner in which a certain male lion fights other male lions
- Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to paragraph 3.

One may, for example, release aggression by joining a football team or a debate team or even a cooking competition.

Where would the sentence best fit? Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage.
- The phrase "schools of thought" in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to
 - institutions of higher learning
 - lessons to improve behavior
 - methods of instruction
 - sets of shared beliefs
- It is NOT mentioned in paragraph 4 that some believe that instinctive aggression may occur
 - without being provoked
 - in order to cause provocation
 - in response to minor provocation
 - in response to strong provocation
- The word "it" in paragraph 4 refers to
 - aggression
 - an instinctive response
 - provocation
 - a direct response

12. The author begins paragraph 5 with the expression "in contrast to instinct theories" in order to
- (A) introduce the instinct theories that will be presented in paragraph 5
 - (B) indicate that paragraph 5 will present two contrasting theories
 - (C) contrast instinctive theories of aggression with biological theories of aggression
 - (D) provide a transition to the idea that will be presented in paragraph 5
13. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 5? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
- (A) Research on aggression has shown that the best way to combat aggression is to model appropriate behavior and positively reinforce non-aggressive behavior.
 - (B) Children learn to behave aggressively by witnessing aggressive behavior that is rewarded or is at least not punished.
 - (C) When aggressive behavior is combined with modeling, it takes positive reinforcement to disrupt this type of behavior.
 - (D) Children will model aggressive behavior even in circumstances when the aggressive behavior is negatively reinforced.
14. The word "that" in paragraph 5 refers to
- (A) research
 - (B) evidence
 - (C) the behavior
 - (D) a live model
15. What is stated in paragraph 5 about the modeling of aggressive behavior?
- (A) Fictional models are as likely to cause aggressive behavior as are live models.
 - (B) Little correlation has been found between viewing of aggressive behavior on television and acting aggressively.
 - (C) Aggression in works of fiction may cause aggressive behavior.
 - (D) Aggression in society has an effect on the type of violence in movies and on television.
16. The phrase "in and of itself" in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to
- (A) internally
 - (B) single-handedly
 - (C) genuinely
 - (D) semi-privately
17. The word "critical" in paragraph 5 could best be replaced by
- (A) negative
 - (B) considerate
 - (C) crucial
 - (D) studied
18. Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to paragraph 5.
- Thus, it is more common for a youth to imitate aggressors who have been rewarded than those who have been punished.**
- Where would the sentence best fit? Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage.

19. **Directions:** Select the appropriate sentences from the answer choices, and match them to the theories to which they relate. TWO of the answer choices will not be used. **This question is worth 3 points** (3 points for 5 correct answers, 2 points for 4 correct answers, 1 point for 3 correct answers, and 0 points for 2, 1, or 0 correct answers).

theories attributing aggression to instinct	• •
theories attributing aggression to learned behaviors	• • •

Answer Choices (choose 5 to complete the table):

- (1) Aggression occurs in response to rewards for aggressive behavior.
- (2) Aggression occurs without outside provocation.
- (3) Aggression occurs in order to provoke confrontations.
- (4) Aggression occurs in response to observed behavior of real people.
- (5) Aggression occurs in response to negative reinforcement of aggressive behavior.
- (6) Aggression occurs as a natural response to provocation.
- (7) Aggression occurs in response to observed behavior of fictional people.

20. **Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. **This question is worth 2 points** (2 points for 3 correct answers, 1 point for 2 correct answers, and 0 points for 1 or 0 correct answers).

This passage discusses causes of aggression.
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Answer Choices (choose 3 to complete the chart):

- (1) Various theories indicate that learned aggression occurs as a result of observation of this type of behavior and reward for it.
- (2) Various theories indicate aggression is neither instinctive nor learned.
- (3) Various theories indicate that instinctively caused aggression is always cathartic.
- (4) Various theories indicate that instinctively caused aggression may occur with or without provocation.
- (5) Various theories indicate that aggression may be instinctive or learned.
- (6) Various theories indicate that learned aggression results from displacement of anger.

Turn to pages 554–557 to *diagnose* your errors and *record* your results.