

OPERANT CONDITIONING: Schedules of Reinforcement

- **A Fixed Ratio Schedule (FR):** The consequence is delivered after a specific number of responses
- **A Variable Ratio Schedule (VR):** The consequence is delivered after a changing and unpredictable amount of responses
- **A Fixed Interval Schedule (FI):** The consequence is delivered for the first response after a specific amount of time has passed
- **A Variable Interval Schedule (VI):** The consequence is delivered for the first response after a changing and unpredictable amount of time has passed

Identify the schedule of reinforcement for each behavioral scenario below.

- 1- _____ Checking your computer every afternoon, knowing your romantic partner typically sends you a note at 3:00 pm.
- 2- _____ You get a bonus whenever your boss sees you working diligently, but you never know when she might appear.
- 3- _____ You receive a free flight after you have flown 60,000 miles with a particular airline.
- 4- _____ You are given \$100 for every 1,000 words in your newspaper articles.
- 5- _____ A teacher is evaluated by an administrator but is allowed to choose the class and the time of day the administrator will visit.
- 6- _____ A person buying state lottery tickets.
- 7- _____ A person checks the front porch for a newspaper when the delivery person is extremely unpredictable.
- 8- _____ A person calls a garage mechanic to see if his or her car is fixed yet.
- 9- _____ A professional baseball player gets a hit approximately every third time at bat.
- 10- _____ A person checks the oven to see if chocolate chip cookies are done when the amount of time need for baking is known.
- 11- _____ A charitable organization makes an average of ten phone calls for every donation it receives.
- 12- _____ A hotel maid may take a 15-minute break each time they have cleaned three rooms.

ANSWER KEY

- 1. Fixed interval**
- 2. Variable interval**
- 3. Fixed ratio**
- 4. Fixed ratio**
- 5. Fixed interval**
- 6. Variable ratio**
- 7. Variable interval**
- 8. Variable interval**
- 9. Variable ratio**
- 10. Fixed interval**
- 11. Variable ratio**
- 12. Fixed interval**