FREE RBT STUDY SHEET · 2026 EXAM

Generalization and Maintenance: RBT Practice Questions

A skill only helps a learner if it appears outside the teaching room, with different people, materials and settings. Generalization is the spread of a learned skill to new conditions, and maintenance is its continued use after teaching has ended. This set asks how to program for both: varying examples, involving natural cues and communities, and scheduling checks after reinforcement is thinned. Each item rewards the answer that plans for the learner's real environment rather than only the training setting. Each scenario asks you to plan beyond the training room, which is the core idea behind both generalization and maintenance.

START FREE RBT MOCK EXAM →

Free · timed mock exam · results by topic · rbtpracticequestions.com

INSIDE THIS PDF 10 questions with options · full answer key · 4 study tips · FAQ

Practice questions

Answer every question before you look at the key, then check yourself on the next pages.

1. During a maintenance probe, Leo's accuracy on requesting water with a communication card drops well below the plan criterion. What should the RBT do?

- **A** Repeat the probe until the learner meets the criterion, then record it
- **B** Record the results and ask the supervisor whether teaching should resume
- **C** Wait for the next scheduled probe to confirm the drop before reporting it
- **D** Reteach the skill with the acquisition steps and tell the supervisor after

2. Which feature would most clearly distinguish the maintenance plan for reading a three-letter word from its acquisition plan?

- **A** Data taken on every trial instead of during periodic probes
- **B** More frequent trials with denser reinforcement to protect the gains
- **C** Prompts added on each trial so the mastered skill stays errorless
- **D** Less frequent practice and thinner reinforcement after mastery

3. An item is highly preferred, but the learner works no harder when it is delivered after correct responses. Which principle does this case illustrate?

- **A** An item must be chosen on nearly every preference trial before it can count as a reinforcer
- **B** An item counts as a reinforcer once the learner or a caregiver reports that it is well liked
- **C** If an item works as a consequence, the behavior it follows must have a tangible function
- **D** The target response must increase or persist when followed by the item, compared with when it is not

4. A learner can request "help" with one RBT but not with classmates. The supervisor adds practice with peers. Which goal is targeted?

- **A** Maintenance check
- **B** Preference ranking
- **C** Duration timing
- **D** Generalization plan

5. Priya can define prompting but misses stems that ask whether a learner is being taught a new skill or checked for durable performance after teaching. Which contrast should she study next?

- **A** Positive versus negative punishment
- **B** Duration versus permanent-product recording
- **C** Differential reinforcement procedure types
- **D** Maintenance and acquisition procedures

How would you score today? Take the free mock exam and see your weak task-list areas.

START FREE RBT MOCK EXAM →

6. Aisha matches identical pictures in the therapy room and later does it with photographs instead of drawings. What outcome does this demonstrate?

- **A** Discrimination
- **B** Stimulus fading
- **C** Generalization
- **D** Maintenance

7. A learner already ties shoes independently, and the RBT checks the skill once weekly without teaching new steps. Which label fits?

- **A** Acquisition procedure
- **B** Differential reinforcement
- **C** Maintenance procedure
- **D** Functional assessment

8. A target decreases across five sessions after a phase line. What may the RBT report without exceeding the data?

- **A** The likely cause of the pattern, so that the supervisor can confirm it
- **B** The visible level, trend, and any outliers, stated with no claim of cause
- **C** The learner's effort, mood, and motivation, as inferred from the data path
- **D** A prediction of how the learner will perform in other settings and with others

9. A learner greets the therapist in clinic but not the teacher at school. The plan now practices greetings with both adults. What is being targeted?

- **A** Maintenance check
- **B** Punishment plan
- **C** Latency timing
- **D** Generalization

10. A learner practices greeting peers in the clinic, hallway, and playground with different adults. Which goal is targeted?

- **A** Response cost
- **B** Functional analysis
- **C** Generalization
- **D** Latency reduction

Answer key and explanations

1. Correct answer: B · Record the results and ask the supervisor whether teaching should resume

A decline may indicate the need to return to acquisition procedures, but the supervisor directs program changes. Maintenance failures are information—document them and seek direction.

Task: C.9

2. Correct answer: D · Less frequent practice and thinner reinforcement after mastery

Maintenance usually reduces teaching intensity after mastery while periodically confirming durable performance. Maintenance generally thins support while retaining periodic measurement.

Task: C.9

3. Correct answer: D · The target response must increase or persist when followed by the item, compared with when it is not

Reinforcement is demonstrated by a future increase or maintenance of behavior following contingent stimulus delivery. Call a stimulus a reinforcer only when its contingent use has the defining behavioral effect.

Task: B.1

4. Correct answer: D · Generalization plan

Practicing with peers targets generalization across people.

Task: C.8

5. Correct answer: D · Maintenance and acquisition procedures

The stem asks for the difference between active teaching during acquisition and checking maintenance after learning.

Task: C.9

6. Correct answer: C · Generalization

The learned skill occurs with a novel person, material, or setting, which demonstrates generalization. Generalization means useful performance beyond the exact training conditions.

Task: C.8

7. Correct answer: C · Maintenance procedure

Maintenance checks whether an already learned skill continues.

Task: C.9

8. Correct answer: B · The visible level, trend, and any outliers, stated with no claim of cause

An RBT can objectively identify displayed patterns but should not infer causes or broad generalization from the graph alone. Report what the graph shows; seek supervisor direction for clinical interpretation.

Task: A.7

9. Correct answer: D · Generalization

Generalization extends performance across relevant people and settings.

Task: C.8

10. Correct answer: C · Generalization

Generalization expands performance across settings and people.

Task: C.8

Study tips

- Vary teaching examples, people, and places early so the skill does not stay tied to one context.
- Program for maintenance by scheduling probes after the teaching program is reduced.
- Distinguish stimulus generalization, a change in the cue, from response generalization, a new form of the same response.
- Tie the plan to natural environment cues the learner will meet at home and school.

FAQ

What is generalization in ABA?

Generalization is when a learned behavior occurs across different settings, people, materials, or cues without being taught separately for each.

How is maintenance different from generalization?

Generalization refers to spreading the skill to new conditions, while maintenance refers to keeping the skill over time, especially after reinforcement is reduced.

Should generalization be taught only at the end of a program?

No. Planning for generalization from the start, by varying training conditions, tends to make skills more durable.

Turn this sheet into a real exam rehearsal

The free mock exam runs on the clock and shows which task-list areas still cost you points.

START FREE RBT MOCK EXAM →

https://rbtpracticequestions.com/

Independent study resource from rbtpracticequestions.com. Not affiliated with, endorsed by or sponsored by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Practice questions written against the RBT Test Content Outline (3rd ed.).