Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Students who attended every class for a month earned extra credit. Adding a reward after the behavior is positive reinforcement, and it pushed attendance up over the semester.

2. Perfect attendance also removed something unpleasant: those students were exempt from a final quiz. Taking away an unwanted task after the behavior is negative reinforcement, and it strengthened attendance the same way.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. A

3. C

Matching

1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-B

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) reinforcement, 2) positive punishment, 3) fixed

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Positive punishment involves adding an unpleasant stimulus (e.g., extra homework for misbehavior), while negative punishment involves removing a pleasant stimulus (e.g., taking away phone privileges). Both discourage unwanted behaviors.

Q2: Partial reinforcement schedules make behaviors more resistant to extinction by rewarding them unpredictably, encouraging persistence in hopes of receiving reinforcement.

Q3: Negative reinforcement removes an unpleasant stimulus to encourage a behavior, unlike punishment, which aims to decrease behavior. For instance, a teacher excusing homework for good behavior is negative reinforcement.