Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. James defines attention as the mind taking possession, in clear and vivid form, of one out of several possible objects or trains of thought. He also stresses the cost: it involves withdrawal from some things in order to deal effectively with others.

2. His definition is selective attention stated a century early. This reading defines selective attention as the ability to focus on a particular stimulus while ignoring others, which is exactly James's pairing of taking possession of one object and withdrawing from the rest.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. D

3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Stroop, 2) Selective attention, 3) automatic processing

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Selective attention is the ability to focus on a particular stimulus while ignoring others, while divided attention is the ability to attend to multiple stimuli simultaneously. Selective attention involves focusing on one specific stimulus, while divided attention involves dividing attention between two or more stimuli.

Q2: Attention plays a crucial role in perception by allowing us to focus on specific sensory information and ignore irrelevant stimuli. Attention can influence our perception of the world by determining what we notice and remember. For example, when we are focused on a particular task, we may be less likely to notice distractions in our environment.

Q3: The Stroop effect demonstrates the limitations of automatic processing. In the Stroop task, participants are asked to name the color of ink used to write words that are incongruent with the meaning of the words. The Stroop effect shows that it is difficult to ignore the meaning of the word and to focus solely on the color of the ink, even when we are instructed to do so. This is because reading is such an automatic process that it interferes with our ability to focus on the color of the ink.