AP Psychology - Sensation & Perception Pre-Test

Multiple Choice
Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. The ability to simultaneously process the pitch, loudness, melody, and meaning of a song best illustrates
   a. subliminal perception. c. accommodation. e. parallel processing.
   b. kinesthesia. d. sensory adaptation.

2. Although textbooks frequently cast a trapezoidal image on the retina, students typically perceive the books as rectangular objects. This illustrates the importance of
   a. interposition. c. linear perspective. e. binocular cues.
   b. size constancy. d. shape constancy.

3. While playing tennis you need to know where your limbs are located so you can move them into the right positions to run or swing your racket. Which of the following senses provides this information?
   a. audition b. vestibular c. kinesthesia d. gustation e. olfaction

4. Patients' negative expectations about the outcome of a surgical procedure can increase their postoperative experience of pain. This best illustrates the importance of
   a. transduction. c. sensory adaptation. e. top-down processing.
   b. accommodation. d. difference thresholds.

5. Imagine your friend walking toward you in the hall at school. As your friend gets closer, the image cast on your retina
   a. gets smaller. b. gets larger. c. gets darker.
   d. stays exactly the same. e. appears higher in your field of vision.

6. When looking at the hands of a clock showing 8 o'clock, certain brain cells in the visual cortex are more responsive than when the hands show 10 o'clock. This is most indicative of
   a. sensory interaction. c. parallel processing. e. accommodation.
   b. feature detection. d. perceptual adaptation.

7. When Jason briefly turned to summon the waiter, his wife quickly switched her glass of red wine with his glass of white wine. Jason's failure to notice that his chosen wine had been replaced best illustrates
   a. place theory. c. change blindness. e. figure-ground.
   b. sensory interaction. d. parallel processing.

8. Giuilio's bag of marbles is twice as heavy as Jim's. If it takes 5 extra marbles to make Jim's bag feel heavier, it will take 10 extra marbles to make Giulio's bag feel heavier. This best illustrates
   a. opponent-process theory. c. the McGurk effect. e. Weber's law.
   b. accommodation. d. sensory adaptation.

9. According to the gate-control theory, a back massage would most likely reduce your physical aches and pains by causing
   a. release of pain-killing endorphins in your muscles.
   b. activation of nerve fibers in your spinal cord.
   c. the release of adrenaline into your bloodstream.
   d. deactivation of the pain receptors on the surface of your skin.
   e. the cochlea to transduce impulses sent to the spinal cord.
10. Our experience of pain may be intensified when we perceive that others are experiencing pain. This best illustrates the importance of
   a. sensory adaptation.       c. top-down processing.       e. difference thresholds.
   b. accommodation.            d. kinesthesia.

11. The local fire department sounds the 12 o'clock whistle. The process by which your ears convert the sound waves from
   the siren into neural impulses is an example of
   a. sensory adaptation.    c. parallel processing.         e. sensory interaction.
   b. accommodation.          d. transduction.

12. The sequentially flashing Christmas tree lights appeared to generate pulsating waves of motion. This best illustrates
   a. relative motion.     c. the phi phenomenon.      e. perceptual adaptation.
   b. retinal disparity.   d. frequency theory.

13. Which of the following play the biggest role in our feeling dizzy and unbalanced after a thrilling roller coaster ride?
   a. olfactory receptors      c. basilar membranes       e. eardrum
   b. feature detectors        d. semicircular canals

14. During the months when there is a large amount of pollen in the air, your hay fever severely affects your sense of smell. 
   At the same time your food all seems to taste the same. This illustrates the importance of
   a. accommodation.          c. kinesthesia.              e. sensory adaptation.
   b. sensory interaction.     d. serial processing.

15. The tendency to perceive a moving light in the night sky as belonging to an airplane rather than a satellite best illustrates
   the impact of
   a. perceptual constancy.   c. feature detection.     e. the phi phenomenon.
   b. relative height.        d. perceptual set.

16. Although Manuel was sitting right next to his parents, he smelled a skunk minutes before they did. Apparently, Manuel
   has a lower _________ for skunk odor than his parents have.
   a. accommodation level     c. tolerance level         e. adaptation level
   b. absolute threshold      d. olfactory saturation level

17. If the just-noticeable difference for a 10-ounce weight is 1 ounce, the just noticeable difference for an 80-ounce weight
   would be _________ ounce(s).
   a. 1                         b. 2                c. 4                   d. 8                   e. 10

18. After listening to your high-volume car stereo for 15 minutes, you fail to realize how loudly the music is blasting. This
   best illustrates
   a. Weber's law.              c. sensory adaptation.    e. transduction.
   b. accommodation.           d. the volley principle.

19. An exhausted forest ranger may notice the faintest scent of a forest fire, whereas much stronger but less important odors
   fail to catch her attention. This fact would be of greatest relevance to
   a. Young-Helmholtz theory.  c. signal detection theory. e. place theory.
   b. opponent-process theory. d. frequency theory.

20. After a small section of his basilar membrane was damaged, Jason experienced a noticeable loss of hearing for high-pitched sounds only. Jason's hearing loss is best explained by the _________ theory.
   a. gate-control       c. Young-Helmholtz       e. place
   b. frequency          d. opponent-process