

Behaviourism

Education

Learning as a change in observable behaviour, shaped by what follows it.

Classical — Pavlov

- A neutral cue paired with a real one
- The cue alone comes to trigger it
- Explains learned fear and anxiety
- Involuntary responses
- Extinction if the pairing stops

Operant — Skinner

- Behaviour shaped by consequences
- Reinforcement raises frequency
- Punishment lowers it, less reliably
- Voluntary behaviour
- Shaping builds it in steps

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Powerful for behaviour, silent on understanding. It says nothing about what a pupil knows.

Educational reference. Behaviourist accounts are incomplete, not wrong: they model contingencies, not comprehension.