

1995

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination

PSYCHOLOGY

Section II

Time—45 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 45 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the question posed.

1. Compare and contrast the experimental method and the survey method in terms of their suitability for investigating the hypothesis that frustration leads to aggressive behavior.

In comparing and contrasting the two methods, be sure to identify and discuss each of the following.

- A. Independent variable
- B. Dependent variable
- C. Control
- D. Experimenter and response bias
- E. Ethical issues

1995

2. Define each of the following concepts and explain how each contributes to the phenomenon of prejudice.

- A. Stereotyping
- B. Self-fulfilling prophecy
- C. Fundamental attribution error
- D. Projection
- E. Schema

1996

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination
PSYCHOLOGY
SECTION II

Time—45 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 45 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the question posed.

1. Discuss how social and biological factors have an impact on each of the following in the individual.
 - A. Body weight
 - B. Perception
 - C. Alcoholism
 - D. Extraversion
 - E. Schizophrenia

1996

- 2
2. Professor Jackson believes that frustration increases the need for achievement. She decides to test her hypothesis with her introductory psychology class of about 100 students. The first 50 students who arrive for class one day are taken to a separate room and given a series of easy puzzles to complete. Professor Jackson then asks each student about his or her professional goals. She rates the statement of each on a 7-point scale for strength of achievement motivation.

When they arrive, the remaining students are taken to another room and given a series of difficult puzzles by Professor Jackson's teaching assistant, Jim. Jim also asks each student about his or her professional goals and, like Professor Jackson, then rates the statement of each on a 7-point scale.

The group given the difficult puzzles has, on the average, higher achievement motivation scores than the group given the easy puzzles. Professor Jackson concludes that her hypothesis is supported.

Show how each of the following aspects of Professor Jackson's experimental design is flawed. Indicate how you would correct each problem.

- A. Sampling
- B. Assignment of participants
- C. Dependent variable
- D. Control for experimenter bias
- E. Control of confounding variables (You need cite only one.)

1997

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—45 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 45 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the question posed.

1. Many people are concerned about the effects of the use of physical punishment to modify the undesirable behavior of children.
 - A. Basing your answer on psychological knowledge, apply each of the following in an argument against the use of physical punishment.
 - Modeling
 - Classical conditioning of fear
 - Displacement
 - B. How would psychologists use the following processes to modify children's undesirable behavior?
 - Positive reinforcement
 - Extinction

1997

2. Although personality is generally consistent throughout the life span, some people exhibit major personality changes.
 - A. How do each of the following help to explain BOTH continuity and change in personality?
 - Biological factors
 - Learning factors
 - Situational factors
 - Cognitive factors
 - B. How would any TWO of the above interact to produce change in the trait of shyness?

1998

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the question posed.

1. Read the following abstract of a student research project on bystander intervention and then answer the questions that follow.

The ten participants in the study were unaware of its purpose. The first five who signed up to be tested were assigned to the Alone condition and the next five were assigned to the With Others condition. The Alone condition was run in the morning and the With Others condition in the afternoon.

In the Alone condition, each of the five participants was asked to wait alone in a room. While the participant waited, a female voice in the next room screamed out, asking for help. In the With Others condition, each one of the five participants was asked to wait in a room with several confederates of the researcher. During this waiting period, a male voice in the next room screamed out, asking for help.

In each condition, the percentage of participants who responded to the cry for help was recorded.

- A. Identify the independent and dependent variables in this study.
- B. Identify four flaws in the design of this study and the recommendations you would make to correct these flaws.
- C. Discuss an ethical issue raised by the design of this study.
- D. Use your knowledge of research in social psychology to describe the likely results of this study if correct methodology had been used.

1998

2. A. Describe fully the distinctive emphasis of the cognitive approach to human behavior and mental processes. In your essay, be sure to specify how the cognitive approach differs from the following psychological approaches:

Psychodynamic/psychoanalytic
Behavioral
Biological

- B. Give an example of the contribution of cognitive theory to the understanding of each of the following.

Memory
Depression

1999

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination

PSYCHOLOGY

Time – 50 minutes

Percent of total grade – 33 1/3

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the question posed.

Question 1

A. Describe the role of each of the following mechanisms in determining an individual's eating habits and body weight.

Biological Mechanisms
Body or brain chemistry
Brain structure
Genetics

Learning Mechanisms
Reinforcement
Modeling
Cultural factors

B. Select *one* biological and *one* learning mechanism and discuss the implications of each for weight management.

Question 2

1999 AP

In a study, researchers use a photograph taken in a public park to examine how people perceive, learn, and remember information. In the photograph, a woman is standing near a man who is seated on a park bench. The woman appears to be shouting at the man.

Participants in the study are exposed to the photograph for ten seconds and then are shown, each for ten seconds, several other photographs of people interacting. When all the photographs have been shown, the participants are asked about what they saw in the "public park" photograph. A significant number of participants describe the man as being the aggressor in an apparent disagreement with the woman.

Describe how each of the following concepts helps explain the perception of these participants. Be sure to begin by defining each concept in psychological terms.

schema
retroactive interference
representativeness heuristic
confirmation bias
framing

2000 AP® PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the question posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Your high school is proposing moving to a system in which grades are no longer given or used to evaluate student progress.

Define each of the following concepts and state how each might either positively or negatively change student behavior under such a system.

- a. Extrinsic motivation
- b. Arousal theory (Yerkes-Dodson Law)
- c. Learned helplessness
- d. Self-fulfilling prophecy

2000 AP® PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. The police chief of New City states publicly that she sees a direct relationship between teenage arrests in New City for violent crimes and the popularity among New City teens of especially violent television shows.

A. Design a correlational study to research this claimed relationship, being sure to address how each of the following design elements would apply to your study.

- operational definition of variables
- selection of participants
- generalizability
- two ethical considerations

- B. The police chief concludes that watching violent television shows leads to teens' committing violent crimes in New City. Do you support her conclusion? Explain your response.

2001 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. a. Discuss the cause of anxiety from *each* of the following perspectives.
 - Behavioral
 - Psychoanalytic/psychodynamic
 - Biological
 - Cognitive
- b. Discuss a specific treatment technique for reducing anxiety used by professionals representing *each* of the four perspectives.

2001 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Describe the psychological concept of expectancy or set. Discuss a specific example of how expectancy or set affects each of the following.
 - Human perception
 - The effects of a psychoactive drug on a human
 - A student's performance in the classroom
 - Human problem solving
 - Memory

**AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY
2002 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 1

The human organism displays various reactions that are characterized by opposing tendencies. Use a specific physiological or psychological mechanism to explain how both aspects of opposing processes apply to EACH of the following.

- Appetite
- Autonomic nervous system
- Color vision
- Drug use
- Nerve firing

**AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY
2002 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 2

Five-year-old Jessie went to a fire station with her kindergarten class. When she got home, Jessie, who is in the preoperational stage of cognitive development, eagerly told the story of her adventure to her older brother. Describe how the following factors might have influenced the story she told. Be sure to define and provide an appropriate example of EACH factor.

- Egocentrism
- Observational learning
- Overregularization or overgeneralization in language
- Reconstructive memory
- Schema

2003 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. A. Statistics are often used to describe and interpret the results of intelligence testing.
 - Describe three measures of central tendency (mean, median, and mode).
 - Describe a skewed distribution.
 - Relate the three measures of central tendency to a normal distribution.
 - Relate the three measures of central tendency to a positively skewed distribution.
 - An intelligence test for which the scores are normally distributed has a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. Use this information to describe how the scores are distributed.
 - In two normal distributions, the means are 100 for group I and 115 for group II. Can an individual in group I have a higher score than the mean score for group II? Explain.
- B. Apply knowledge of psychological research in answering the following questions about intelligence scores.
 - Explain why norms for standardized intelligence tests are periodically updated.
 - Describe how to determine whether an intelligence test is biased.

2003 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. A. Define the following psychological concepts.
 - Cognitive dissonance
 - Conformity
 - Incentive motivation
 - Negative reinforcement
 - Physiological addiction
- B. Use one specific example for each of the concepts in part A to explain how the concept might relate to either the development of or the continuation of a smoking habit. It is not necessary to use the same example for each concept.

2004 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Dr. Franklin investigated the relationship between stress and physical illness. She persuaded a high school principal to require all female athletes in the school to participate in her study. She explained the purpose of her research to the athletes and asked them to use a standard form to rate the severity of their stress over the last six months. More than 250 athletes completed the form. Then Dr. Franklin analyzed the forms returned by the first 100 athletes. She requested the attendance records from the nurse's office for each of those athletes to verify the number of days absent due to illness during the same six-month period. In the debriefing summary that Dr. Franklin sent to the 100 athletes after she completed the study, she stated that athletes who reported more stress also experienced more frequent illness. Dr. Franklin concluded that stress causes physical illness.
 - Identify the research method used by Dr. Franklin.
 - Describe the operational definitions of the TWO key variables that Dr. Franklin used in the study.
 - Based on the information provided, describe ONE appropriate and ONE inappropriate ethical feature of the study.
 - Identify ONE statistical technique that Dr. Franklin could use to represent the relationship between the variables in the study.
 - Describe TWO aspects of research design that weaken the validity of Dr. Franklin's conclusion that stress causes physical illness.

2004 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Time is an important variable in many psychological concepts. Describe a specific example that clearly demonstrates an understanding of each of the following concepts and how it relates to or is affected by time. Use a different example for each concept.
 - Critical period
 - Fluid intelligence
 - Group polarization
 - James-Lange theory of emotion
 - Presentation of the conditioned stimulus (CS) and unconditioned stimulus (UCS) in classical conditioning
 - Refractory period in neural firing
 - Sound localization
 - Spontaneous recovery

2005 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Describe a specific example that clearly demonstrates an understanding of how each of the following concepts can lead to an inaccurate perception, cognition, or conclusion. Each example must include an explanation of the relationship between the concept and the inaccuracy.
 - Afterimage effect
 - Availability heuristic
 - Ethnocentrism
 - Groupthink
 - Lack of object permanence
 - Nonrandom assignment of research participants
 - Optimistic explanatory style
 - Proactive interference

2005 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Psychologists conduct research to investigate controversial issues. Consider the following:
 - The value of diagnostic labeling
 - Children's acquisition of language
 - Explanations of hypnosis
 - A. Describe the opposing points of view on each of the psychological issues listed above. Your description must provide one argument on each side of the controversy.
 - B. For each issue, choose one point of view to support. Using evidence from psychological research, justify why you think this point of view is correct.

2006 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Psychologists use a variety of research methods to study behavior. Three of the main research methods used are

- Case study
- Correlational study, and
- Experiment.

- A. Discuss one advantage of each research method listed above.
- B. Discuss one disadvantage of each research method listed above.

Pretend you are a psychologist who will use each of the three research methods—case study, correlational study, and experiment—to determine the effect of taking vitamin J on improving memory.

- C. For each method listed above, explain a key characteristic of the basic approach you could use to reach a scientific conclusion about the relationship between taking vitamin J and improving memory. You need not design a complete study.

2006 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Zoey wants to buy a new car but is having difficulty deciding what kind of car to buy. She is feeling anxious and wants to make a decision soon. Zoey visits several local car dealers and asks for the advice of some of her friends. Explain how each of the following could influence her decision. Be sure to discuss each concept in the context of Zoey's decision.

- Approach-avoidance conflict
- Central route to persuasion
- Heuristics
- Individualism
- Rationalization
- Self-efficacy
- The autonomic nervous system
- The foot-in-the-door phenomenon

2007 AP® PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Ellie, a new student at Skinner High School, is determined to make friends. When she attends the first psychology club meeting she finds herself in the room with twenty strangers who seem to know each other well. She plans to attend a few more meetings before deciding whether she will join.
 - A. Demonstrate how each of the following could HELP play a role in Ellie's quest for friendship. You may use a different example for each concept. Definitions will not score.

HELP

- The mere exposure effect
- Mnemonic device
- Schachter two-factor theory
- Locus of control

- B. Demonstrate how each of the following could HINDER Ellie's quest for friendship. You may use a different example for each concept. Definitions will not score.

HINDER

- In-group bias
- Regression
- Operant conditioning
- Circadian rhythm

2007 AP® PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Often misunderstood, schizophrenia is a psychological disorder affecting one percent of the population. In addition to treating the disorder, psychologists work to identify its nature and origins.
 - Identify two characteristic symptoms used to diagnose schizophrenia.
 - Discuss a research finding that supports a genetic basis for schizophrenia.
 - What is the dopamine hypothesis regarding the origins of schizophrenia?
 - Describe how medications used to treat schizophrenia affect the actions of neurotransmitters at the synapses.
 - Identify a risk inherent in using medications in the treatment of schizophrenia.
 - People sometimes confuse schizophrenia with dissociative identity disorder (DID). Identify two key characteristics that differentiate DID from schizophrenia.

2008 AP® PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. The Smith-Garcias are planning for their first baby. Both parents-to-be have had a psychology course and are looking forward to applying the principles they learned from theories and research that address child development.
 - A) Summarize one main idea or finding of each of the following four researchers.
 - Skinner's operant conditioning
 - Bandura's social learning theory
 - Ainsworth's attachment research
 - Baumrind's research on parenting styles
 - B) Provide a specific example of actions the Smith-Garcias might take to raise their child to produce positive outcomes using each of the theories below to address the corresponding psychological concept.
 - Skinner's operant conditioning: tantrum management
 - Bandura's social learning theory: sharing behavior
 - Ainsworth's attachment research: self-reliance
 - Baumrind's research on parenting styles: self-esteem

2008 AP® PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Abstract

2. We conducted a variation of Asch's (1951) conformity study in which participants made judgments about the length of lines. We randomly assigned participants to one of two conditions and told them that the study involved perceptual abilities. In the first condition, participants estimated the length of lines after hearing five people pretending to be participants (confederates) give inaccurate estimates. In the second condition, participants estimated the length of lines without hearing estimates of confederates. As we expected, participants in the first condition were less accurate in their estimates of line length, demonstrating the tendency to conform to majority influence.
 - A) How would each element below be related to the specific content of the experiment reported in the abstract?
 - Control group
 - Deception
 - Operational definition of the dependent variable
 - Hypothesis
 - Debriefing
 - B) How might participants' estimates of line length in the study be related to the following?
 - Cognitive dissonance
 - Maslow's hierarchy of needs

2009 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Dimitri and Linda are trying to learn a new routine to compete successfully in a dance competition. Give an example of how each of the following could affect their performance. Definitions without application do not score.

- Extrinsic motivation
- Punishment
- Proactive interference
- Endorphins
- Vestibular system
- Divergent thinking
- Introversion

2009 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. James is in a driver's education course preparing to take his driving test. The course includes both book work and driving on the road to prepare students for a written test and a road test.

(a) Describe how each of the following might influence his ability to drive a car during the road test. Definitions without application do not score.

- Cognitive map
- Cerebellum
- Observational learning
- Human factors

(b) Describe how each of the following are related to the results of the written test. Definitions without application do not score.

- Reticular formation
- Predictive validity
- Semantic memory

2010 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. For each of the pairs below, use an example to show how the first term in each pair affects or is related to the second. Definitions alone without examples will not score.
 - Serial-position effect . . . recall
 - Functional fixedness . . . problem solving
 - Operational definition . . . replication
 - Double-blind research . . . bias
 - Operant conditioning . . . superstition
 - Reinforcement . . . overjustification effect
 - Myelin sheath . . . neural impulse

2. At a schoolwide pep rally preceding a big game at Williams James High School, each grade has a designated t-shirt color and seating area in the bleachers. Student leaders organize classes so that their colored shirts combine to form the school flag. The coach gives an exciting speech, the cheerleaders perform a routine, and the band plays the school song while the students sing in unison.

Explain the behavior and perceptions of the participants in the pep rally using the concepts below. Be sure to apply the concepts to the scenario in your explanation.

- Cocktail party effect
- Conformity
- Deindividuation
- Figure ground
- Occipital lobe
- Procedural memory
- Sympathetic nervous system

STOP

END OF EXAM

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2011 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. A researcher designs a study to investigate the effect of feedback on perception of incomplete visual figures. Each participant stares at the center of a screen while the researcher briefly projects incomplete geometric figures one at a time at random positions on the screen. The participant's task is to identify each incomplete figure. One group of participants receives feedback on the accuracy of their responses. A second group does not. The researcher compares the mean number of figures correctly identified by the two groups.
 - A. Identify the independent and dependent variables in the study.
 - B. Identify the role of each of the following psychological terms in the context of the research.
 - Foveal vision
 - Feature detectors
 - Gestalt principle of closure
 - C. Describe how each of the following terms relates to the conclusions that can be drawn based on the research.
 - Random assignment
 - Statistical significance

2011 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Savannah is a junior in high school and is preparing for an exam in her beginning Japanese course. The exam will consist of both written and spoken portions. Although it is her first course in Japanese, Savannah is confident that she will do very well on the exam.
 - A. Describe how each of the following relates to Savannah's successful learning and performance.
 - Broca's area
 - Use of phonemes
 - Modeling
 - Chunking
 - B. Describe how each of the following may hinder Savannah as she prepares for and takes the exam.
 - Encoding failure
 - Age and language acquisition
 - C. After the exam, Savannah tells her family and friends that she believes that she spoke fluently and did extremely well on the exam. Describe how each of the following concepts may have influenced her opinion.
 - Self-efficacy
 - Confirmation bias

2012 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. A. Annabelle is planning to apply to college but has not yet decided where she will apply. Describe how the following psychological concepts and terms relate to her choice.
 - Availability heuristic
 - Compliance
 - Prefrontal cortex
 - Prospective memory
- B. Explain how the following psychological concepts could relate to how well Annabelle adapts when she begins her college career.
 - Agoraphobia
 - Crystallized intelligence
 - Ethnocentrism

2012 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. For each of the following pairs of terms, explain how the placement or location of the first influences the process indicated by the second.
 - Rods, peripheral vision
 - A list of unrelated words, word recall
 - Serotonin, reduction of depression
 - Retinal disparity, depth perception
 - Motor cortex, body movement
 - Presence of others, performance
 - Proximity, perception

2013 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. In response to declining reading scores in local schools, John wrote an editorial suggesting that schools need to increase interest in reading books by providing students with incentives. Based on research showing a relation between use of incentives and student reading, he recommended providing a free pizza coupon for every ten books a student reads.

A. Explain how each of the following psychological concepts can be used to refute John's argument.

- Correlational research
- Overjustification effect

B. Explain how schedules of reinforcement can be used to strengthen John's plan.

C. Explain how each of the following psychological phenomena could influence a reader's view of John's argument.

- Belief perseverance
- Central route to persuasion
- Retroactive interference
- Source amnesia

2. A researcher compared the effectiveness of massed versus distributed practice in preparing for a memory test. Each of two groups memorized the definitions of 40 vocabulary words.

In group A, there were 30 participants who were all under twenty-five years of age. Participants in group A used the method of distributed practice, studying for 30 minutes on each of four evenings. They were tested on the fifth morning at 7:00 A.M. In group B, there were 30 participants who were all over sixty years of age. Participants in group B used the method of massed practice, studying only from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. on the evening before the test. They were tested the next morning at 7:00 A.M.

All participants completed a recall test. The test measured how quickly participants recalled the definitions. The results showed that the mean difference between the distributed practice group and the massed practice group was statistically significant. The researcher provided a list of the names and test scores for each individual participant in a letter to all participants.

Part A

- What is the operational definition of the dependent variable?
- Explain how the ethical flaw in the study can be corrected.
- Explain how the research design flaw in the study can be corrected.
- In a well-designed study, what does it mean to say there is a statistically significant difference between groups?

Part B

How might each of the following concepts affect the results of the study?

- Fluid intelligence
- Circadian rhythm

2014 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Adapted from M. M. Duguid and J. A. Goncalo, *Living Large: The Powerful Overestimate Their Own Height*.

In a study of power and self-image, participants were not told the true purpose of the study; instead, they believed they were participating in a business simulation. Researchers randomly assigned participants to a high-power ($n = 44$) or low-power ($n = 44$) condition. In the high-power condition, participants recalled a time when they had power over others, and in the low-power condition, they recalled a time when others had power over them. Participants were asked to adjust the height (in centimeters) of an electronic graphical image (an avatar) of themselves to reflect their personal appearance. Results indicated a statistically significant difference in participants' perceptions of their own height across the two conditions. Participants in the high-power condition created taller self-images (mean = 6.0, standard deviation = 1.5) than participants in the low-power condition (mean = 4.0, standard deviation = 1.0).

- Describe the levels of the independent variable.
- Describe how the researchers measured the dependent variable.
- Create a bar graph illustrating the results of the study. Correctly label each axis.
- Explain why the researchers can conclude that there is a cause-and-effect relationship between the independent and dependent variables.
- Explain what statistical significance means in the context of the study.
- Explain why debriefing would be necessary in the study.

2. Abram recently graduated from high school and began his first year at a four-year university. Explain with an example how experiencing each of the following in the past may affect Abram's ability to succeed in college.

- Authoritarian parenting style
- Identity versus role confusion
- Unconditional positive regard

Abram's first year was very difficult, and he found that he was not as successful as he would have liked. Explain with an example how each of the following may help Abram be more successful in the future.

- Divergent thinking
- Elaborative rehearsal
- Intrinsic motivation
- Self-efficacy

2015 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Researchers conducted a naturalistic study of children between the ages of 5 and 7 years. The researchers visited classrooms during class party celebrations. As a measure of hyperactivity, they recorded the number of times children left their seats. The researchers found a strong positive correlation between sugary snacks offered at the parties and hyperactivity. Based on these findings, the researchers concluded that sugar causes hyperactivity.
 - A. How might the following explain why people may easily accept the conclusion of the study described above?
 - Confirmation bias
 - Availability heuristic
 - Misunderstanding of correlational studies
 - B. As a follow-up study, the researchers are designing an experiment to test whether sugar causes hyperactivity. For the experiment, please do the following.
 - State a possible hypothesis.
 - Operationally define the dependent variable.
 - Describe how random assignment can be achieved.
 - C. Based on the results of the follow-up experiment described in Part B, researchers conclude that sugar does not cause any change in hyperactivity.
 - Draw a correctly labeled bar graph depicting this result.

2. Chandler and Alex were transferred to a new city and needed to find a new home. They carefully considered every house within their price range and finally purchased one that met all their criteria.
 - A. Explain how each of the following is related to their decision to buy the home.
 - Prefrontal cortex
 - Algorithm

One month before the move, Chandler and Alex asked friends to help them organize and pack their belongings. One week before the scheduled moving day, they learned that they needed to move out within 48 hours, so they quickly finished packing.

 - B. Explain how each of the following concepts could be related to their moving process.
 - Social loafing
 - Alarm stage of the general adaptation syndrome
 - C. Provide an example that explains how each of the following concepts could be related to life in their new home and new neighborhood.
 - Proactive interference
 - Habituation
 - Normative social influence

2016 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Ashley planned to drive from New York to California to attend college. However, shortly after departing, she became uncertain about which roads to take and called her parents for assistance with directions. Because she was distracted, she drove off the side of the road and grazed the front bumper of her car on the guardrail. Fortunately, the car was not too badly damaged, so she continued on her journey. Although she ultimately made it to California, she had a lingering fear of guardrails for several months following her experience.

Part A

Explain how each of the following might have helped Ashley drive from New York to California. Definitions alone will not score.

- Motor neurons
- Retinal disparity
- Heuristic
- Procedural memory

Part B

Explain how each of the following might have led Ashley to have a negative experience on her trip from New York to California. Definitions alone will not score.

- Circadian rhythms
- Conditioned response
- Inattention blindness

2016 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. In a geography course, Danny is required to learn the capital cities of every country of the world. At the end of the semester, the professor will randomly select twenty countries and give each student an oral quiz on the capital cities in front of the class.

Part A

Explain how each of the following might help Danny succeed with this task. Definitions alone will not score.

- Distributed practice
- A mnemonic device
- Secondary reinforcer
- Big Five trait of conscientiousness

Part B

Explain how each of the following might hinder Danny's success with this task. Definitions alone will not score.

- Retroactive interference
- Self-fulfilling prophecy
- Sympathetic nervous system

STOP

END OF EXAM

2017 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Part A

Explain how each of the following plays a role in eating behavior.

- Drive-reduction theory
- External cues
- Dopamine and the reward center
- Observational learning

Part B

A study was conducted to investigate the role of framing on concern for healthy eating. Each participant ($N = 100$) was randomly assigned to one of two conditions. In the first condition, the participants read an article indicating that obesity is a disease. Participants in the second condition read an article indicating that obesity is the result of personal behaviors and decisions.

Participants were then asked to indicate how important it would be for them to eat a healthy diet. Scores ranged from 1 (not very important) to 9 (very important). The results are presented in the table below.

Group	Mean Score—Concern for Healthy Eating	Standard Deviation
Disease	3.4	1.4
Behavior	6.1	1.2

- Operationally define the dependent variable.
- What makes the study experimental rather than correlational?
- What is the most appropriate conclusion the researchers can draw about the relationship between the variables in the study?

2017 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Sachio traveled to a prestigious college to audition for a music scholarship. After he arrived, he learned that his audition had been rescheduled for late in the day. Sachio was required to play several difficult pieces on his saxophone and interview with the judges. Just before leaving campus, he was offered a full scholarship to the college.

Explain how each of the following might have contributed to the success of Sachio's visit.

- Resistance phase of general adaptation syndrome
- Implicit memory
- Social facilitation
- Basilar membrane
- Somatosensory cortex
- Intrinsic motivation
- Big Five personality trait of extraversion

STOP

END OF EXAM

2018 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total score— $33\frac{1}{3}$

Directions: You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Jackie has been chosen for the lead role in the school play. She is both nervous and excited about this opportunity.

Part A

Explain how each of the following concepts may help her performance in the play.

- Context-dependent memory
- Acetylcholine
- Kinesthetic sense
- Selective attention

Part B

Explain how each of the following concepts may hinder her performance in the play.

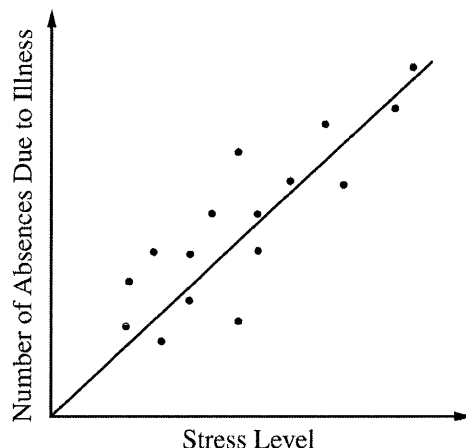
- Proactive interference
- Yerkes-Dodson law of arousal
- External locus of control

2018 AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. A survey was conducted to determine the state of the physical and psychological health of high school students.

Part A

Some of the survey questions related to student stress levels and student absences due to illness. The data on these variables are displayed below.



- What is the most appropriate conclusion that can be drawn based on the figure above?
- Explain how the data depicted in the graph are consistent with the exhaustion stage of the general adaptation syndrome.
- A researcher wants to conduct another study using the same variables, but wants to set it up as an experiment. Explain one reason that an institutional review board (IRB) might not approve this new study.

Part B

Some of the survey questions related to risky behaviors. The results indicated that 90 percent of high school students' risky behaviors were influenced by social factors.

Explain how each of the following may contribute to an increase in risky behaviors.

- Deindividuation
- Normative social influence

Part C

Explain how each of the following may contribute to good physical or psychological health of high school students.

- Cognitive restructuring
- Incentive motivation

STOP

END OF EXAM