

AP Psych Exam Topics/Concepts/Terms

The following list of terms, ideas, people and vocabulary are items that are likely to show up on the AP Psychology Exam in one form or another. The more of this information you know, the better off you will be when taking the test. I know it is a ton of information, but it is all stuff you guys have read and studied for the past semester.

The chapter title/topic is in bold, with the percentage of the test it makes up in parenthesis.

1. Perspectives/History (2–4%)

- Historical perspectives-structuralism, functionalism, Gestalt, behaviorism, psychoanalysis-know who the major names are associated with each (James, Watson, Freud, Skinner...)
- Current perspectives-biological view, developmental view, cognitive view, psychodynamic view, humanistic view, behavioral view, sociocultural view, Evolutionary view

2. Research Methods (6–8%)

- 5 steps of the scientific method
- Types of research:
 - Experiment
 - Independent/dependent/confounding variables
 - Control/experiment group
 - Types of bias/sources of bias
 - Correlational Study/survey
 - Observation/naturalistic observation
 - Ex post facto
 - Longitudinal study
 - Cross sectional study
 - Cohort sequential study
- Statistical analysis: mean, median, mode, correlation coefficient, histogram, “statistically significant”
- Ethical standards (deception and debriefing)
- Random sample vs. random assignment

3. Biopsychology (8–10%)

- Evolution/natural selection-Darwin’s theories
- Genetics/inheritance
- Nature vs. Nurture
- Neurons-Parts, functions, types, neurotransmitters
- Divisions of the nervous system-CNS, PNS-somatic, autonomic-sympathetic, parasympathetic
- Three layers of the brain-brainstem, limbic system, cerebral cortex
 - All major parts and functions
 - All the lobes of the cerebral cortex
- Cerebral dominance/split brain

4. Sensation/Perception (7–9%)

- Transduction-changing stimuli to sensation
- Sensory adaptation
- Thresholds-absolute, Just Noticeable Difference...
- Signal detection Theory
- Specific senses-vision and hearing
- Perceptual processing-The binding problem, bottom up processing, top down processing
- Perceptual consistency
- Figure and ground
- Closure

- The Gestalt Laws-perceptual grouping, law of similarity, law of proximity, law of common fate
- Binocular vs. monocular clues
- Perceptual sets

5. States of Consciousness (2–4%)

- Conscious vs. non-conscious processing
- Levels of the non-conscious mind
- Sleep: Circadian rhythms, REM vs. N-REM, all the sleep stages, sleep paralysis
- Dreams-current theories vs. Freudian theories
 - Manifest content vs. Latent content
- Hypnosis
- Psychoactive drugs

6. Learning (7–9%)

- Learning vs. instinct
- Simple and complex learning
- Ivan Pavlov
- Classical conditioning
 - Neutral stimulus
 - Acquisition
 - UCS/CS/UCR/UCR
 - Extinction
 - Discrimination
 - Spontaneous recovery
- Operant conditioning
 - Law of effect
 - Reinforce-positive and negative reinforcement
 - Punishment-positive and negative reinforcement
 - B.F. Skinner
 - Schedules of reinforcement-continuous vs. intermittent, ratio vs. interval
 - Shaping
 - Primary vs. secondary reinforcers
 - Token economy
- Wolfgang Kohler-study with chimps
- Cognitive maps
- Latent learning
- Observational learning-Bobo doll experiment

7. Cognition (8-10%)

- Memory:
 - 3 basic processes/information processing model: encoding, storage, retrieval
 - Eidetic memory
 - Sensory memory
 - Working Memory
 - Long term memory
 - Chunking, rehearsal
 - Levels of processing theory
 - Declarative memory
 - Episodic memory
 - Procedural memory
 - Semantic memory
 - Engram
 - Anterograde amnesia, retrograde amnesia

- Flashbulb memory
- Implicit vs. Explicit Memory
- Priming
- Recall vs. Recognition
- Mood-memory congruent
- Schacter's Seven Sins of Memory
 - Transience
 - Absent mindedness
 - Blocking
 - Proactive interference/Retroactive interference/serial position effect
 - Misattribution
 - Suggestibility
 - Bias
 - Persistence
- Language structures of the brain-LAD
- Acquiring vocabulary

8. Emotion and Motivation (7–9%)

- Plutchik's Emotion Wheel
- Neuroscience of emotion-role of limbic system (amygdale, hippocampus, reticular formation, cerebral cortex)
- James-Lang Theory vs. Cannon-Bard Theory
- Two-Factor Theory
- Opponent –process theory
- The inverted U/Yerkes Dodson Model
- Types of motivation-intrinsic vs. extrinsic motivation
- Theories of Motivation
 - Instinct Theory
 - Drive Theory
 - Cognitive Theory of Loci
 - Freud's Theory of Psychoanalysis
 - Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
- Stress vs. Stressor
- Traumatic stressors/PTSD
 - 5 stages of recovery
- Physical response to stress, Fight or Flight
- General Adaptation Syndrome
- Type A/Type B Patterns

9. Psychological Development (7–9%)

- Fraternal/Identical twins
- Continuity view of development
- Discontinuity view of development
- Prenatal Development
 - Prenatal period, teratogens
- Neonatal period
- Infancy
- Attachment
- Imprinting
- Contact comfort
 - Harry Harlow's study with monkeys
- Maturation
- Cognitive Development/Piaget

- Schemas, assimilation/accommodation
- Piaget's stages of development
 - Sensorimotor
 - Preoperational
 - Egocentrism
 - Animistic thinking
 - Centration
 - Irreversibility
 - Concrete Operational
 - Formal Operational
- Theory of mind
- Zone of proximal development
- 4 distinct parenting styles
- Erikson's Theory of Psychosocial Development (8 stages)
- Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Reasoning (6 stages)
- Development challenges of adults (pg 396)

10. Personality (6–8%)

- Freud's Psychodynamic Theory of Personality (iceberg model)
 - Id
 - Ego
 - Superego
 - Unconscious
 - Libido
 - Oedipus complex
 - Defense mechanisms
 - Repression
 - Rorschach Inkblot Tests
- Carl Jung
 - Personal unconscious/collective unconscious
- Humanistic Theories
 - Abraham Maslow-Self-actualizing personalities
 - Carl Rogers-Fully functioning person
- Locus of control-Rotter's Theory
- The "Big Five" Traits/The Five-Factor Theory

11. Testing and Individual Differences (5–7%)

- Validity
- Reliability
- Face validity
- Content validity
- Item analysis
- Standardized test
- Split-half reliability
- Intelligent quotient (IQ)
- Objective tests
- Subjective tests
- Inter-rater reliability
- Sternberg's Triarchic Theory
- Gardner's Multiple Intelligences
 - Linguistic intelligence, logical-mathematical intelligence, spatial intelligence, musical intelligence, bodily kinesthetic intelligence, interpersonal intelligence, intrapersonal intelligence

12. Psychological Disorders (7–9%)

- Psychopathology
 - Hallucinations
 - Delusions
 - Affect
- Hippocrates Humor Theory
- A brief history of how psychological disorders were treated
- Indicators of Abnormality
 - Distress
 - Maladaptiveness
 - Irrationality
 - Unpredictability
 - Unconventionality/ Undesirable behavior
- DSM-IV-TR
- Mood Disorders (with examples and symptoms)
- Cognitive-Behavioral Cycle of Depression
 - Major depression, Bipolar Disorder
- Anxiety Disorders (with examples and symptoms)
 - Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, Phobic Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Somatoform Disorders
 - Conversion disorder, Hypochondriasis
- Dissociative Disorders
 - Dissociative Amnesia, Dissociative Fugue, Depersonalization Disorder, Dissociative Identity Disorder
- Eating Disorders
- Schizophrenia
 - Major Types of Schizophrenia: Disorganized, Catatonic, Paranoid, Undifferentiated and Residual
 - Causes of schizophrenia
- Personality Disorders
 - Narcissistic Personality Disorder, Antisocial Personality Disorder
- Developmental Disorders
 - Autism, Dyslexia

13. Therapies for Psychological Disorders (5–7%)

- Insight Therapies
- Talk Therapies
- Psychoanalysis: Analysis of transference
- Neo-Freudian Psychodynamic Therapies
- Humanistic Therapies: Client-Centered Therapy
- Cognitive Therapies
- Group Therapies
- Group Therapies/Self-Help Support Groups
- Behavior Therapies
 - Behavior modification
 - Classical Conditioning Therapies
 - Systematic Desensitization
 - Aversion Therapy
 - Exposure Therapy
 - Operant Conditioning Therapies-Token Economies
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
 - Rational-Emotional Behavior Therapy
- Drug Therapies
 - Antipsychotic drugs
 - Antidepressants

- Mood stabilizers
- Antianxiety
- Stimulants
- Brain Stimulation Therapies

14. Social Psychology(7–9%)

- Social context
- Social reality
- Social roles
- Social norms
- Conformity
 - Asch Effect
 - Group think-factors that promote group think
- Milgram's Obedience Experiment
 - Why we obey authority
- The bystander problem
 - Kitty Genovese
 - Diffusion of responsibility
 -
- Reward theory of attraction
 - Proximity
 - Similarity
 - Self-disclosure
 - Physical attractiveness
- Matching hypothesis
- Expectancy-value theory
- Cognitive dissonance
- Fundamental attribution error (FAE)
- Self-serving bias
- 5 causes of prejudice
 - Dissimilarity and social distance
 - Economic competition
 - Scapegoating
 - Conformity to social norm
 - Media stereotypes
- Social facilitation
- Social loafing
- Deindividuation
- Group polarization
- Groupthink