

AP Psychology – Learning Goals
Myers’ Psychology for AP: Unit 1 & Unit 2
History, Approaches, & Research Methods

<p>Describe how psychology developed from its pre-scientific roots in early understandings of mind and body to the beginnings of modern science.</p>
<p>Describe some important milestones in psychology’s early development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Structuralism & Functionalism in early years ● Gestalt and Psychoanalytic approaches developing later
<p>Describe how psychology continued to develop from the 1920s through today. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Behaviorism offered a new definition of psychology in the 1920s-60s ● Humanistic and Cognitive psychology grew in popularity in the 1960s ● Modern psychology draws influence from both trends. Biological psychology, evolutionary psychology, and cognitive neuroscience represent more modern approaches.
<p>Summarize the nature-nurture debate in psychology.</p>
<p>Describe psychology’s three main levels of analysis (bio-psycho-social) and related perspectives, including: behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic/psychoanalytic, and social-cultural.</p>
<p>Identify psychology’s main subfields, including those in basic research and applied research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basic subfields: biological psychology, developmental psychology, cognitive psychologists, educational psychologists, personality psychologists, social psychologists, positive psychology ● Applied subfields: Industrial-Organizational Psychologists, Human Factors Psychologists, Counseling Psychologists, Clinical Psychologists, Community Psychologists <p>Contrast psychologists with <i>psychiatrists</i></p>
<p>Explain how psychological principles can help you learn and remember.</p>
<p>Describe what psychologists in various professions do and where they work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developmental Psychologists ● Educational Psychologists ● Experimental Psychologists ● Psychometric and Quantitative Psychologists ● Social Psychologists ● Forensic Psychologists ● Health Psychologists ● Industrial-Organizational Psychologists ● Neuropsychologists ● Rehabilitation Psychologists ● School Psychologists ● Sport Psychologists ● Clinical Psychologists ● Community Psychologists ● Counseling Psychologists

Describe how hindsight bias , overconfidence , and the tendency to perceive order in random events illustrate why science-based answers are more valid than based on intuition and common sense.
Identify how the three main components of the scientific attitude (Curiosity, Skepticism, and Humility) relate to critical thinking.
Describe how theories advance psychological science.
Describe how psychologists use case studies , naturalistic observation , and surveys to observe and describe behavior, and explain the importance of random sampling .
Describe positive and negative correlations , and explain how correlational measures can aid the process of prediction but not provide evidence of cause-effect relationships.
Explain illusory correlations .
Describe the characteristics of experimentation that make it possible to isolate cause & effect. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to identify an independent and dependent variable when presented with an example of a research design • Describe how random assignment and control groups contribute to the power of experimental designs.
Describe the three measures of central tendency, and discuss the relative usefulness of the two measures of variation.
Explain how we know whether an observed difference can be <i>generalized</i> to other populations. Particularly, note how the terms “ statistical significance ” and p-value relate to inferences about generalization.
Explain the value of simplified laboratory conditions in illuminating everyday life.
Discuss whether psychological research can be generalized across cultures and genders.
Explain why psychologists study animals, and describe the ethical guidelines that safeguard human research participants.
Examine whether psychology is free of value judgments.

Key People:

- Mary Whiton Calkins
- G. Stanley Hall
- William James
- Margaret Floy Washburn
- John Watson & Rosalie Rayner
- Wilhelm Wundt
- E.B. Titchener