

***AP Psychology – Learning Goals
Myers’ Psychology for AP: Unit IX
Developmental Psychology***

Identify three issues that have engaged developmental psychologists: nature & nurture, continuity & stages, and stability & change.
Discuss the course of prenatal development, and explain how teratogens affect that development.
Describe some abilities of the newborn, noting how researchers are able to identify their mental abilities.
Describe some developmental changes in the brain and motor abilities during infancy and childhood.
Describe how an infant’s developing brain begins processing memories.
Describe how a child’s mind develops from the perspectives of Piaget, Vygotsky , and today’s researchers.
Explain how autism spectrum disorder affects development.
Describe how parent-infant attachment bonds form.
Describe how psychologists study attachment differences, and discuss their findings about the effect of temperament and parenting.
Discuss how childhood neglect, abuse, or family disruption affect children’s attachments.
Discuss the effect of day care on children.
Trace the onset and development of children’s self-concept .
Describe three parenting styles (in Diana Baumrind ’s model), and explain how children’s traits relate to them.
Discuss gender similarities and differences in psychological traits, including: <i>aggressiveness</i> , <i>social power</i> , and <i>social connectedness</i> .
Discuss the nature and nurture (noting the importance of gender roles and gender-typing) of gender development. Apply theories that explain gender-typing, including: gender schema theory and social learning theory .
Describe how early experiences can modify the brain (e.g., pruning, critical periods, enriched/impooverished environments). Explain the importance of Rosenzweig ’s research.
Describe the ways in which parents and peers shape children’s development.
Define adolescence , and identify the major physical changes during this period.

Describe adolescent cognitive and moral development, according to Piaget, Kohlberg , and later researchers.
Describe the social tasks and challenges of adolescence.
Contrast parental and peer influences during adolescence.
Describe the characteristics of emerging adulthood .
Explain how biological sex is determined, and describe the role of sex hormones in gender development.
Describe some of the ways that sexual development varies (e.g., intersex individuals)
Discuss the factors that reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STI's).
Discuss the factors that influence teenagers' sexual behaviors and use of contraceptives.
Summarize what research has taught us about sexual orientation and its development.
Identify the physical changes that occur during middle and late adulthood.
Assess the impact of aging on memory.
Discuss the themes and influences that mark the social journey from early adulthood to death, applying Erik Erikson's model of psychosocial development to conceptualize stages.
Describe trends in people's self-confidence and life satisfaction across the life span.
Describe the range of reactions to the death of a loved one.

Key People (be able to describe their contributions in developmental psychology):

- Jean Piaget
- Lev Vygotsky
- Konrad Lorenz
- Harry Harlow
- Margaret Harlow
- Mary Ainsworth
- Diana Baumrind
- Carol Gilligan
- Albert Bandura
- Lawrence Kohlberg
- Erik Erikson
- Sigmund Freud
- Mark Rosenzweig