

GRADE LEVEL AND SUBJECT: ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY (11TH AND 12TH)

DOMAIN	CONTENT STANDARDS	PERFORMANCE STANDARDS	ASSESSMENT
AUGUST			
METHODS	Careers and Subfields Roots of Scientific Psychology Modern perspectives Research tools Statistical analysis Ethics in Experimentation	Define psychology Trace historical development of psychology Compare different perspective used to examine behavior and mental processes Examine contributions and limitations of historical and modern perspectives Describe variety of subfields and careers in psychology Differentiate among different types of research methods Utilize basic statistics to analyze research data Recognize ethical guidelines used in psychological research	Weekly Quizzes Written Work Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Tests
SEPTEMBER			
BIOPSYCHO- LOGICAL	Neural structure & functioning Nervous System Structure Endocrine System Organization & Function of brain structures Methods & Technology used to study brain Hemispheric differences Heredity & Nurture Influence Evolutionary Influences	Identify the neuron as the basis for neural communication Explain how neural information is transmitted Explain how neural transmission can be altered by heredity & environment Identify the major divisions and subdivisions of the nervous system Divide the roles of the different subdivisions of the nervous system Explain how the endocrine and nervous systems are connected Identify structure of major brain regions and their functions Identify functions of the major cerebral cortex lobes Recognize how technology has allowed researchers to investigate the brain Explore how left and right hemispheres influence brain functioning Explore how neurological functioning can be changed by environment Measure the effects of nature and nurture on the influences of behavior Examine the interaction of how evolved tendencies interact with the environment and culture to determine behavior	Weekly Quizzes Written Work Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Class Activities Tests
DEVELOP- MENTAL	Physical Development Social Development Cognitive Development Prenatal & Childhood Adolescence Adulthood & Aging	Outline the stages of prenatal development Describe harmful influences on prenatal development Describe motor and sensory capacities of newborns and infants Explain the concept of attachment Discuss effects of attachment between infant and parents Explain fundamentals of Piaget's theory of cognitive development Describe and evaluate the stages Piaget's theory of cognitive development Explain the principles of moral development and how moral reasoning changes over time Summarize physical changes that occur during adolescence Analyze how reasoning ability of adolescence differs from that of younger children and adults Identify evidence of Erik Erikson's idea of identity seeking behaviors in adolescents Describe the effects of physical changes in middle and late adulthood Analyze the effect of aging on memory and intelligence Identify factors that affect social well-being as adults age	Weekly Quizzes Written Work Class Activities Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Tests

OCTOBER

BIOPSYCHO- LOGICAL	Sensory Systems Attention processes Individual and Environmental influences on perception	Define the nature of sensory processes Identify major components and functions of sight, sound, smell, touch, taste Discuss differences among smell, taste & flavor Examine gate-control theory Describe principles of organization & analyze effect on everyday life Demonstrate how monocular & binocular depth cues effect daily functioning Identify real and perceived motion Discuss value of perceptual constancy Discuss principles of thresholds and adaptation Discuss Gestalt principles Explain the role of observer characteristics in perception	Weekly Quizzes Written Work Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Class Activities Test
COGNITIVE	States of Consciousness Characteristics of sleep stages Theories on why we sleep Hypnosis & its uses Psychoactive drugs	Define consciousness Identify different body rhythms & how they differ Explain why sleep is important in daily life Identify different stages of sleep Investigate N-REM and REM sleep stages Compare/Contrast sleep stages Investigate different sleep disorders Compare theories of dream use and interpretation Explain different hypnotic phenomenon Discuss applications of hypnosis Explain how psychoactive drugs work Identify main drug categories Evaluate avenues to prevent use/abuse of psychoactive drugs	Weekly Quizzes Written Work Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Class Activities Test

NOVEMBER

COGNITIVE	Learning Classical Conditioning Operant Conditioning Role of cognition in conditioning Biological & Cultural influences on learning Observational Learning	Define classical conditioning & necessary factors for acquisition Describe conditioning process Evaluate Watson's theory of emotional conditioning Examine "Law of Effect" & how it modifies behavior Compare/Contrast positive and negative reinforcement Analyze how punishment affects behavior Examine operant conditioning principles Evaluate the effects of rewards on learning Explain importance of generalization and discrimination Compare/Contrast schedules of reinforcement Describe principles of observational learning Examine elements of cognitive learning	Weekly Quizzes Written Work Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Class Activities
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COGNITIVE	Memory Encoding memory Short-term memory Long-term memory Physiological basis of memory Strategies for improving memory	Describe variables that affect encoding memory Describe short-term memory Describe long-term memory Discuss the role of retrieval cues in memory Identify brain regions vital to memory Discuss the value of overlearning Compare/Contrast recall and recognition Compare/Contrast implicit and explicit memories Define primacy and recency effect Examine usefulness of mnemonic devices Explore how organization improves our memories Investigate role of hippocampus and cerebellum in memory Discuss how interference affects retrieval Investigate memory construction	Weekly quizzes Written Work Class Activities Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Test
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DECEMBER

COGNITIVE	Thinking & Language Fundamental elements of thought Strategies & obstacles in problem Language structure Stages & Theories of Language development Connections between thought and language	Define cognition as a mental process Explore the process of concept formation Investigate problem solving processes Define language and analyze how we learn language Investigate the hierarchical structure of language Trace the stage of language development Evaluate the theories of language acquisition Examine the phenomenon of animal language Explore the influence of language on thought	Weekly quizzes Written work Class Activities Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Test
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COGNITIVE	Individual Differences Assessment of differences among individuals Intelligence	Define intelligence Discuss statistical concepts related to testing Examine how intelligence is influenced by nature and nurture Compare/Contrast various theories of intelligence Explain how intelligence tests reflect individual differences Examine the relationship between test scores and achievement Evaluate the limitations of traditional intelligence testing Differentiate between achievement and aptitude tests	Weekly quiz Written work Class Activities Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Test
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JANUARY

BIOPSYCHO- LOGICAL	Motivational concepts Major Theories of Motivation Environmental & Biological influences Biological & Cultural Factors Physiological, Affective, Cognitive & Behavioral Aspects of emotions	Apply motivational concepts to the behavior of humans and other animals Compare/Contrast major theories of motivation Investigate the role of internal, external cues and learning on basic drives Explain how common motives and emotions develop Describe situational cues that give rise to anger and fear Use expectancy-value theory to explain behavior Compare/Contrast major theories of emotion Explain how emotions and behaviors are related Describe differences in perception between individuals differing in motivation Examine how learning, memory, problem-solving, and decision-making strategies are influenced by motivation and emotion	Weekly quiz Written Work Class Activities Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Test
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<p>BIOPSYCHO- LOGICAL</p>	<p>Origins of Stress Physiological changes due to stress Psychological changes due to stress Cognitive & behavioral techniques for reducing stress and promoting wellness</p>	<p>Define Stress Identify emotional and physiological responses to stress Analyze connections between physical health and stress Describe and examine sources of stress Distinguish between types of conflict Describe direct and defensive coping techniques Characterize a well-adjusted person Discuss opposing views of what constitutes well-adjusted Examine how flow, happiness and optimism contribute to well being Examine traits that promote inner strength and happiness</p>	<p>Weekly Quizzes Written Work Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Class Activities Test</p>
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FEBRUARY

<p>DEVELOPMENTAL</p>	<p>Personality Theories Personality Assessment</p>	<p>Define personality Determine how psychodynamic psychologist assess personality Evaluate drawbacks of psychodynamic approach Explain how humanistic perspective views personality development Determine how humanistic psychologists attempt to assess personality Evaluate drawbacks of humanistic perspective Analyze how the study of traits helps us understand personality Identify the "Big 5" traits Describe how trait psychologists assess personality traits Evaluate the drawbacks of trait theory Explain how cognitive-behavioral psychologists view personality development Evaluate drawbacks of cognitive-behavioral approach Identify important contributors and contributions to understanding personality Evaluate the reliability, validity of assessment techniques</p>	<p>Weekly Quizzes Written Work Class Activities Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Tests</p>
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<p>VARIATIONS IN INDIVIDUAL & GROUP BEHAVIOR</p>	<p>Origins & Characteristics of abnormal behavior Major Categories of Psychological Disorders Research methods used in psychological disorders Impact of Psychological Disorders</p>	<p>Identify the criteria psychologists use to diagnose psychological disorders Differentiate among the different perspectives used to understand psychological disorders Analyze why some psychologists object to the medical model Compare/Contrast different research methods used to study abnormal behavior Evaluate the drawbacks and advantages of labeling psychological disorders Describe the characteristics of generalized anxiety disorder and panic disorder Identify the characteristics of phobic disorder Delineate the characteristics of obsessive-compulsive disorder Describe the characteristics of post-traumatic stress disorder Analyze what factors contribute to the development of anxiety disorders Describe the characteristics of major depressive disorder Analyze the factors that may contribute to the development of mood disorders Differentiate dissociative amnesia from other forms of amnesia Differentiate dissociative fugue from dissociative amnesia Evaluate why dissociative identity disorder is a controversial diagnosis Explain schizophrenia and identify its major symptoms Describe the four types of schizophrenia, pointing out the main characteristics of each Synthesize the different biological and psychological factors that could interact to produce schizophrenia Differentiate among the three major clusters of personality disorders</p>	<p>Weekly Quizzes Written Work Class Activities Class Discussion Group/Individual Work Test</p>
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MARCH

VARIATIONS IN
INDIVIDUAL &
GROUP BEHAVIOR

Psychological Therapies
Treatment Methods
Biomedical Therapies
Mental Health
Professionals

Describe characteristics of effective treatment and prevention
Identify therapists according to training
Compare and contrast behavioral cognitive, psychoanalytic, humanistic and biomedical models
Describe major treatment approaches used in therapy
Distinguish psychotherapy from medical intervention
Discuss validity of treatments for different cultural groups
Differentiate between humanistic therapy and psychoanalysis
Delineate the advantages of therapy conducted in groups
Evaluate what research tells us about psychotherapy's effectiveness
Identify alternative therapies and evaluate whether they are effective
Identify the therapist's ethical obligations

Weekly Quizzes
Written Work
Class Activities
Class Discussion
Group/Individual Work
Test

APRIL

VARIATIONS IN
INDIVIDUAL &
GROUP BEHAVIOR

Social Thinking
Group Influence
Social Influence
Social & Cultural
Categories

Explain how attributions affect how we explain behavior
Identify sources of attitude formation
Explain how the presence of others affects individual behavior
Investigate conditions under which conformity and obedience are fostered
Examine how physical attractiveness can influence our perceptions
Analyze how our attitudes and actions interact
Investigate how social structures influence intergroup relationships
Differentiate between prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination
Investigate the conditions that foster altruism
Examine the nature of aggression
Define primary social and cultural categories
Explain how social and cultural categories influence behavior
Investigate the development of ethnic identity
Compare and contrast individualism and collectivism

Weekly quizzes
Written work
Class Activities
Class Discussion
Group/Individual Work
Test

LATE
APRIL
&
MAY

AP PSYCHOLOGY
EXAM

Review assignments and activities for exam
Post-exam work: research review and presentation