

AP Psychology - Unit 1 Assignment

History of Psychology & Research Methods

Big Question: What makes psychology unique among other fields of study?

History of Psychology Objectives:

- Define psychology and trace its historical development.
- Briefly describe the different perspectives from which psychologists examine behavior and mental processes.
- Identify some of the professional and research interests of psychologists.
- Identify and explain the big issues in psychology.

Research Methods Objectives:

- Describe the scientific method and the scientific attitude that facilitate the development of psychological theories.
- Describe four methods psychologists use to observe and describe behavior systematically.
- Discuss why correlations enable prediction but do not provide an explanation.
- Describe the nature and advantages of experimentation and identify the elements of an experiment.
- Discuss the ethics of experimentation and how psychologists' values influence their work.
- Explain the problems of bias on rational thought.

History of Psychology Overview

Psychology's historical development and current activities lead us to define the field as the science of behavior and mental processes. This introduction discusses the development of psychology and the range of behaviors and mental processes being investigated by psychologists in each of the various specialty areas. In addition, it describes the six major perspectives from which psychologists work. This is followed by a description of three major issues that cut across psychology, including the stability of our traits, the rationality of our thoughts and actions, and the relative contributions of biology and experience to intelligence, personality, and behavior. It then provides an overview of the diverse sub-fields in which psychologists conduct research and provide professional services.

Research Methods Overview

The Methods of Study chapter explains the limits of intuition and common sense in reasoning about behavior and mental processes. To counteract our human tendency toward faulty reasoning, psychologists adopt a scientific attitude that is based on healthy skepticism, open-minded humility, and critical thinking. This chapter also explains how psychologists employ the research designs of description, correlation, and experimentation in order to objectively describe, predict, and explain behavior. The chapter concludes with a discussion of several questions people often ask of psychology, including why animal research is relevant, whether laboratory experiments are ethical, whether behavior varies with gender, and whether psychology's principles don't have the potential for misuse. This chapter introduces a number of concepts that will play an important role in later chapters. Make sure you understand the method of experimentation, especially the importance of control conditions and the difference between independent and dependent variables.

Unit 1 Reading Assignment(s)

You are responsible for the reading listed below; It is meant to supplement the material discussed in class and there may be a pop quiz at any point.

- **OpenStax Psychology Textbook:** Chapters 1 & 2 (Posted on Class Website)

Unit 1 Vocabulary Terms & Flip Book

Psychology is a term heavy course; you are responsible for the terms below. You will have a vocabulary quiz every other unit. For the quiz I will pull terms from the Unit vocabulary lists.

Unit 1 Flip Book: Each term should be on its own card. Each card will have the term thoroughly and clearly defined on the back. Each card will be taped into a manila folder and turned in the day of the unit test.

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| 1. Empiricism | 29. Dependent Variable |
| 2. Structuralism | 30. Standard Deviation |
| 3. Functionalism | 31. Random Assignment |
| 4. Experimental Psychology | 32. Random Sampling |
| 5. Psychoanalysis | 33. Scatter Plot |
| 6. Behaviorism | 34. Illusory Correlation |
| 7. Humanistic Psychology | 35. Case Study |
| 8. Cognitive Psychology | 36. Survey |
| 9. Psychology | 37. Naturalistic Observation |
| 10. Biopsychosocial Approach | 38. Correlation |
| 11. Biological Psychology | 39. Experiment |
| 12. Evolutionary Psychology | 40. Replication |
| 13. Psychodynamic Psychology | 41. Statistical Significance |
| 14. Behavioral Psychology | 42. Operational Definition |
| 15. Social-Cultural Psychology | 43. Critical Thinking |
| 16. Basic Research | 44. Theory |
| 17. Developmental Psychology | 45. Hypothesis |
| 18. Applied Research | 46. Population |
| 19. Industrial-Organizational Psychology (I/O) | 47. Sample |
| 20. Counseling Psychology | 48. Correlation Coefficient |
| 21. Clinical Psychology | 49. Placebo |
| 22. Psychiatry | 50. Placebo Effect |
| 23. Hindsight Bias | 51. Experimental Group |
| 24. Mode | 52. Control Group |
| 25. Mean | 53. Confounding Variables |
| 26. Median | 54. Informed Consent |
| 27. Double Blind Procedure | 55. Debriefing |
| 28. Independent Variable | |

Part II - AP Questions

Directions: Thoroughly answer the following questions. All answers must be handwritten in complete sentences and in your own words.

1. Choose a current event or news story. Then apply at least 3 psychological approaches/perspectives to explain the causes and/or motivations of the individuals or groups involved.
2. Why are theories, hypotheses, and the scientific method essential to the study of psychology?
3. Discuss the importance of operational definitions, control groups/placebos, and replication to psychological experimentation.

4. Panther Creek High School hires you as an educational consultant. They'd like you to create an experiment that determines the effect of study time on exam performance. After describing your experiment, clearly identify the Independent Variable, Dependent Variable, Control Group, Experimental Group, and any Confounding Variables.
5. Describe an example where naturalistic observation would be more appropriate than a case study.
6. Which of the six experimental ethics we discussed in class do you believe to be the most important and which do you think is the least important? Justify your answer.
7. Describe an example when it would be more appropriate to use a double-blind study than a single-blind study.
8. Discuss the potential effects of outliers on experimental research data. (i.e. Negative & Positive Skewing)

Part III - Student Choice

Choice A: Personal Connection/Impact

Type a brief description concerning an experience, memory, story, event, etc. that connects to key concepts associated with the unit. Relevant vocabulary must be properly utilized throughout and responses must connect in a coherent and logical manner.

The purpose of this assignment is to build personal connections with course content to your own lives. By doing so, content becomes more meaningful and retention becomes easier.

Responses must at least one full page, typed, double-spaced, with 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Reasonable margins and paragraph spacing must be used.

-OR-

Choice B: Concept Map

Create a Unit Concept Map that can be used to review/relearn the terms and concepts from this Unit.

NOTE: Use the full directions on the back of this page to complete your concept map.

Requirements:

-Must be hand drawn on one 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper

-Essential vocabulary for each concept must be appropriately located/placed

Creating a Concept Map

A concept map is a diagram used to visually outline information. A concept map is created around a single topic placed in the center, to which associated ideas, words and concepts are added. Major categories radiate from the center, and lesser categories are sub-branches of larger branches. Categories can represent words, ideas, or other items related to a central key word or idea.

Follow the guidelines below for creating your concept maps:

1. Start in the center with an image/title of the topic (Unit 1), using at least 3 colors.
2. Use images, symbols, and codes throughout your concept map.
3. Select key words and print using upper or lower case letters.
4. Each word/image is best alone and sitting on its own line with a short application (including a short definition and an example).
5. The lines should be connected, starting from the central image. The central lines are thicker and thinner as they radiate out from the center, but I'm more interested in you developing your own personal style of concept mapping.
6. Use multiple colors (3+) throughout the concept map, for visual stimulation and also to encode or group.
7. Show associations in your concept map.
8. Keep the concept map clear by using circular hierarchy or numerical order throughout.

Your finished concept map should be more concise than an ordinary version of notes. It is intended to be more memorable and quicker to scan than either the ordinary version of notes or the list.

Please note the concept map is only one part of your preparation for the AP Psychology Exam, you must also complete the vocabulary flipbook and AP questions as well.

As you make your concept map, focusing on learning/re-learning the material as you work!