

Unit Four – Sensation and Perception

Sensation

1. What are absolute thresholds and difference thresholds and how do they differ?
2. What is signal detection theory, and why is it a significant accomplishment for modern psychology?
3. How does sensory adaptation make your life easier?
4. How does selective attention relate to effective study skills?
5. What is light?
6. What are the major parts of the visual system? What roles do these parts play in our ability to see?
7. What are the two theories of color vision? Which ones offer a better explanation of how we see?
8. What is sound?
9. What are the major component of the auditory system? What is the function of each?
10. How do you identify where a sound is coming from?
11. What are the four basic tastes? Which tastes are we naturally attracted to and why do we naturally avoid others?
12. How do taste, smell and flavor differ?
13. What are the four basic skin senses? According to gate control theory, how can we effectively reduce pain?
14. What are the two body senses, and how do they differ?

Perception

1. What important contribution did the Gestalt psychologists make to the study of human perception?
2. How do people determine figure/ground and why is it important?
3. Describe the principles of similarity, proximity, continuity and closure.
4. What is depth perception, and how does it affect our lives?
5. What are the two major binocular depth cues, and how do they help us perceive depth?
6. What cues let us calculate depth using only one eye and how do they let us calculate depth?
7. What might cause us to perceive motion when nothing is moving?
8. What is the value of perceptual constancy in our lives?
9. How does perceptual set affect our everyday interpretation of sensory experiences?
10. How does context influence our perceptions?
11. What makes perceptual illusions so interesting?