

AP Psychology Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Psychology. I hope you and your families are healthy and blessed during this challenging time in our history. Summer is upon us already, and we must not forget our responsibilities to ourselves and our future.

You have an assignment to complete before you arrive back to school to start the 2020-2021 academic school year.

First, you will define the general list of “key terms” (a thru ff), stressing the importance of each.

Second, you are given a list and brief description of specialty fields in psychology. Please chose two (2) fields you prefer most and write a three page paper describing the two (2) fields and why you prefer those over the others. This is an independent research assignment that will be due the fist week back to school.

I am looking forward to reuniting and starting the 2020-2021 academic school year in a productive and professional manner.

Yours in Christ,

John Coyle

Introduction to Psychology and Methods of Research

you are introduced to the field of psychology. Although the term *psychology* has been around for centuries, modern-day psychology (beginning in the year 1879) is different in that it is much more scientific. Psychology traces its roots thousands of years back to the Greek philosophers, including Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Socrates, you may recall, is famous for the adage “know thyself.” In psychology today we are still trying!

Perhaps humans have always wondered who we are, what human nature is like, and what our relationship is to this world we live in. Wise people throughout history have dwelled on such philosophical questions, and Greek philosophers are not the only source of influence on psychology as we know it today. Thinkers elsewhere, such as Confucius in the Far East, concerned themselves with the nature of the human too. Confucius thought the human being was not evil, but good. It was his view that a poor environment or lack of education led basically good individuals to do bad things.

These early thinkers not only addressed fundamental questions regarding human nature, they also had opinions as to how knowledge regarding these issues could and should be obtained. Though Aristotle, for example, did not have the scientific tools we have today, it was his belief that we should let experience and careful examination teach us answers to questions we have. Many philosophers historically have relied on pure thought and reasoning, but Aristotle opposed this approach. Though there is always room for both, modern psychology has cast its lot with the views advocated by Aristotle.

Psychology as a modern scientific discipline is concerned with behavior and mental processes. The year 1879 is particularly important, and generally marks the start of psychology as we know it today because it is then Wilhelm Wundt began the first true psychological laboratory in Leipzig, Germany. Though now still a relatively young science, psychology has evolved rapidly and grown tremendously.

you will learn that there is not just one “psychology” but many and that there are also many approaches to researching psychological questions. These varying explanations have gone in and out of popularity through the years as the field of psychology has evolved and also as society itself constantly changes. Why are there so many different ways to study humans and so many ideas about what human nature is like? You are an exceedingly complex creature! Your environment can influence you to the extent that you may seem like a different person day to day—or even hour to hour! Different thoughts in your head and chemicals in your body can also influence your behavior. Other people standing right next to you may be different yet again from you. No wonder we have such a challenging and exciting task ahead of us as we begin our study of psychology!

- a. Psychology
- b. Psychophysics
- c. Introspection
- d. Structuralism
- e. Positive psychology
- f. Functionalism
- g. Natural selection
- h. Stream of consciousness
- i. Behaviorism
- j. Gestalt psychology
- k. Gestalt
- l. Unconscious
- m. Psychodynamic perspective
- n. Psychoanalysis
- o. Behavioral perspective
- p. Social-cognitive theory
- q. Behavior therapy
- r. Humanistic psychology
- s. Humanistic perspective
- t. Physiological perspective
- u. Evolutionary psychology
- v. Experimental method
- w. Independent variables
- x. Dependent variables
- y. Control groups
- z. Random assignment
- aa. Placebo
- bb. Placebo effects
- cc. Single-blind studies
- dd. Double-blind studies
- ee. Ethics review committees
- ff. Informed consent

Psychologists' Areas of Specialization

Types of Psychologists

Experimental psychologists

Nature of Specialty

Conduct research on learning, cognition, sensation and perception, biological bases of behavior, and animal behavior

Typical Questions Studied

How do various states of arousal affect learning? What brain centers are responsible for memory?

Clinical psychologists

Evaluate and treat people with psychological problems and disorders, such as depression and schizophrenia

How can we diagnose anxiety? Is depression treated more effectively with psychotherapy or drug therapy?

Counseling psychologists

Help people with adjustment problems

What kind of occupation would this student find fulfilling? Why does this person find it difficult to make friends?

School psychologists

Work in school systems to help children with academic problems or special needs

Would this child profit from special education, or would he or she be better off in a regular classroom?

Educational psychologists

Construct standardized psychological and educational tests (such as the SAT); improve course planning and instructional methods

Is this test a valid predictor of success in college? How can we teach algebra more efficiently?

Developmental psychologists

Study physical, cognitive, social, and personality development across the life span

At what age do children begin to walk or speak? What types of crises do people face in middle or later adulthood?

Personality psychologists

Study the psychological characteristics that make each of us unique

What is the structure of personality? How do we measure personality?

Social psychologists

Study the nature and causes of people's thoughts, feelings, and behavior in social situations

What are the origins of prejudice? Why do people do things as members of groups that they would not do as individuals?

Environmental psychologists

Study the ways in which people's behavior and mental processes influence, and are influenced by, their physical environments

What are the effects of city life on people? How does overcrowding affect people's health and behavior?

Industrial/Organizational psychologists

Study the relationships between people and their work environments

How can we find out who would perform well in this position? How can we make hiring and promotion fairer? How can we enhance employees' motivation?

Health psychologists

Study the relationships between psychological factors and the prevention and treatment of physical illness

How can we help people avoid risky sexual behaviors? How can we help people quit smoking and start to exercise?

Consumer psychologists

Study relationships between psychological factors and consumers' preferences and purchasing behavior

Why do people select particular brands? What types of people prefer a particular type of product?

Geropsychologists are interested in the psychological processes associated with aging. They may work with geriatric patients to help them cope with the stresses of later life, including retirement, loss of loved ones, and declining physical health.

Forensic psychologists work within the legal system (Otto & Heilbrun, 2002). They may perform psychological evaluations in child custody cases, testify about the competence of defendants to stand trial, develop psychological profiles of criminal types, give expert testimony in court on psychological issues, or assist attorneys in selecting potential jury members.