

Exam Overview

The AP Psychology Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning targets outlined in the course framework. The exam is 2 hours long and includes 100 multiple-choice questions and 2 free-response questions. The details of the exam, including exam weighting and timing, can be found below:

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Exam Weighting	Timing
I	Multiple-choice questions	100	66.7%	70 minutes
II	Free-response questions	2	33.3%	50 minutes
	Question 1: Concept Application (7 points)			
	Question 2: Research Design (7 points)			

The multiple-choice section of the AP Exam assesses the nine units of the course with the following exam weighting:

Units	Exam Weighting
Unit 1: Scientific Foundations of Psychology	10–14%
Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior	8–10%
Unit 3: Sensation and Perception	6–8%
Unit 4: Learning	7–9%
Unit 5: Cognitive Psychology	13–17%
Unit 6: Developmental Psychology	7–9%
Unit 7: Motivation, Emotion, and Personality	11–15%
Unit 8: Clinical Psychology	12–16%
Unit 9: Social Psychology	8–10%

How Student Learning Is Assessed on the AP Exam

Section I: Multiple-Choice

All three skill categories assessed in the multiple-choice section of the AP Exam with the following exam weighting:

Skill Category	Exam Weighting
Skill Category 1: Concept Understanding	75–80%
Skill Category 2: Data Analysis	8–12%
Skill Category 3: Scientific Investigation	12–16%

Section II: Free-Response

Question 1: Concept Application assesses students' ability to explain behavior and apply theories and perspectives in authentic contexts. Skill Category 1 is assessed.

Question 2: Research Design assesses students' ability to analyze psychological research studies, including analyzing and interpreting quantitative data. All three skill categories are assessed, with an emphasis on Skill Category 3.

Task Verbs Used in the Free-Response Questions

The following task verbs are commonly used in the free-response questions:

Construct/Draw: Create a graph that illustrates or explains relationships or phenomena. Labels may or may not be required.

Define: Provide a specific meaning for a word or concept.

Describe: Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic.

Draw a conclusion: Use available information to formulate an accurate statement that demonstrates understanding based on evidence. Sometimes phrased as, "What is the most appropriate conclusion?"

Explain: Provide information about how or why a relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome occurs, using evidence and/or reasoning to support or qualify a claim. Explain "how" typically requires analyzing the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome; whereas, explain "why" typically requires analysis of motivations or reasons for the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome.

Identify/State: Indicate or provide information about a specified topic, without elaboration or explanation.