



AP Psychology Skills

Skill Category 1

Concept Understanding 1

Define, explain, and apply concepts, behavior, theories, and perspectives.

Skill Category 2

Data Analysis 2

Analyze and interpret quantitative data.

Skill Category 3

Scientific Investigation 3

Analyze psychological research studies.

SKILLS

1.A Define and/or apply concepts.

1.B Explain behavior in authentic context.

1.C Apply theories and perspectives in authentic contexts.

Course at a Glance

Plan

The Course at a Glance provides a useful visual organization of the AP Psychology curricular components, including:

- Sequence of units, along with approximate weighting and suggested pacing. Please note, pacing is based on 45-minute class periods, meeting five days each week for a full academic year.
- Progression of topics within each unit.
- Course skills across units.

Teach

SKILL CATEGORIES

- 1** Concept Understanding
- 2** Data Analysis
- 3** Scientific Investigation

Assess

Assign the Personal Progress Checks—either as homework or in class—for each unit. Each Personal Progress Check contains formative multiple-choice and free-response questions. The feedback from the Personal Progress Checks shows students the areas where they need to focus.

UNIT 1 Scientific Foundations of Psychology		UNIT 2 Biological Bases of Behavior	
~13–14 Class Periods		~11–12 Class Periods	
10–14% AP Exam Weighting		8–10% AP Exam Weighting	
1	1.1 Introducing Psychology	1	2.1 Interaction of Heredity and Environment
3	1.2 Research Methods in Psychology	1	2.2 The Endocrine System
3	1.3 The Experimental Method	1	2.3 Overview of the Nervous System and the Neuron
3	1.4 Selecting a Research Method	1	2.4 Neural Firing
2	1.5 Statistical Analysis in Psychology	1	2.5 Influence of Drugs on Neural Firing
1	1.6 Ethical Guidelines in Psychology	1	2.6 The Brain
		2	2.7 Tools for Examining Brain Structure and Function
		1	2.8 The Adaptable Brain
		1	2.9 Sleep and Dreaming

Personal Progress Check 1

Multiple-choice: ~15 questions
Free-response: 2 questions

- Research Design (partial)
- Research Design (partial)

Personal Progress Check 2

Multiple-choice: ~25 questions
Free-response: 2 questions

- Concept Application (partial)
- Concept Application (partial)

NOTE: Partial versions of the free-response questions are provided to prepare students for more complex, full questions that they will encounter on the AP Exam.

**UNIT
3****Sensation and Perception****~11–12**Class
Periods**6–8%**AP Exam
Weighting

- 1** 3.1 Principles of Sensation
- 1** 3.2 Principles of Perception
- 1** 3.3 Visual Anatomy
- 1** 3.4 Visual Perception
- 1** 3.5 Auditory Sensation and Perception
- 3** 3.6 Chemical Senses
- 1** 3.7 Body Senses

Personal Progress Check 3

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions

Free-response: 1 question

- Concept Application

**UNIT
4****Learning****~9–10**Class
Periods**7–9%**AP Exam
Weighting

- 1** 4.1 Introduction to Learning
- 1** 4.2 Classical Conditioning
- 1** 4.3 Operant Conditioning
- 1** 4.4 Social and Cognitive Factors in Learning

Personal Progress Check 4

Multiple-choice: ~10 questions

Free-response: 1 question

- Research Design

**UNIT
5****Cognitive Psychology****~17–18**Class
Periods**13–17%**AP Exam
Weighting

- 1** 5.1 Introduction to Memory
- 1** 5.2 Encoding
- 1** 5.3 Storing
- 1** 5.4 Retrieving
- 1** 5.5 Forgetting and Memory Distortion
- 1** 5.6 Biological Bases of Memory
- 1** 5.7 Introduction to Thinking and Problem Solving
- 1** 5.8 Biases and Errors in Thinking
- 1** 5.9 Introduction to Intelligence
- 3** 5.10 Psychometric Principles and Intelligence Testing
- 1** 5.11 Components of Language and Language Acquisition

Personal Progress Check 5

Multiple-choice: ~30 questions

Free-response: 1 question

- Concept Application

**UNIT
6**

Developmental Psychology

~9–10 Class Periods

7–9% AP Exam Weighting

- 3** 6.1 The Lifespan and Physical Development in Childhood
- 1** 6.2 Social Development in Childhood
- 1** 6.3 Cognitive Development in Childhood
- 1** 6.4 Adolescent Development
- 1** 6.5 Adulthood and Aging
- 3** 6.6 Moral Development
- 1** 6.7 Gender and Sexual Orientation

Personal Progress Check 6

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions
Free-response: 1 question
 ▪ Research Design

**UNIT
7**

Motivation, Emotion, and Personality

~16–17 Class Periods

11–15% AP Exam Weighting

- 3** 7.1 Theories of Motivation
- 1** 7.2 Specific Topics in Motivation
- 1** 7.3 Theories of Emotion
- 1** 7.4 Stress and Coping
- 3** 7.5 Introduction to Personality
- 1** 7.6 Psychoanalytic Theories of Personality
- 1** 7.7 Behaviorism and Social Cognitive Theories of Personality
- 1** 7.8 Humanistic Theories of Personality
- 1** 7.9 Trait Theories of Personality
- 1** 7.10 Measuring Personality

Personal Progress Check 7

Multiple-choice: ~30 questions
Free-response: 1 question
 ▪ Research Design

**UNIT
8**

Clinical Psychology

~17–18 Class Periods

12–16% AP Exam Weighting

- 1** 8.1 Introduction to Psychological Disorders
- 1** 8.2 Psychological Perspectives and Etiology of Disorders
- 1** 8.3 Neurodevelopmental and Schizophrenic Spectrum Disorders
- 1** 8.4 Bipolar, Depressive, Anxiety, and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
- 1** 8.5 Trauma- and Stressor-Related, Dissociative, and Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders
- 1** 8.6 Feeding and Eating, Substance and Addictive, and Personality Disorders
- 1** 8.7 Introduction to Treatment of Psychological Disorders
- 1** 8.8 Psychological Perspectives and Treatment of Disorders
- 3** 8.9 Treatment of Disorders from the Biological Perspective
- 3** 8.10 Evaluating Strengths, Weaknesses, and Empirical Support for Treatments of Disorders

Personal Progress Check 8

Multiple-choice: ~30 questions
Free-response: 1 question
 ▪ Research Design

UNIT
9

Social
Psychology

~10-11

Class
Periods

8-10%

AP Exam
Weighting

1

**9.1 Attribution Theory and
Person Perception**

3

**9.2 Attitude Formation and
Attitude Change**

3

**9.3 Conformity,
Compliance, and
Obedience**

1

**9.4 Group Influences on
Behavior and Mental
Processes**

1

**9.5 Bias, Prejudice, and
Discrimination**

1

**9.6 Altruism and
Aggression**

1

**9.7 Interpersonal
Attraction**

Personal Progress Check 9

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions

Free-response: 1 question

- Concept Application