Unit 1: History, Perspectives, and Research Methods Copied from: AP Psychology , Copied on: 06/14/21

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **AP Psychology**
Time Period: **September**
Length: **3 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer

History, Perspectives, and Research Methods: Psychology utilizes science to explain and predict behavior

Enduring Understandings

Psychology is empirical.

Ethics are important in both scientific research and the practice of psychology.

Psychology is theoretically diverse.

Case studies, surveys, naturalistic observation, and experimentation are methods psychologists use to study behavior.

Psychology requires understanding how to design, interrupt, and apply a variety of ethical research methods.

Essential Questions

What is psychology and what makes it a science?

How do the schools of psychology compliment or disparage each other?

How do researchers study behavior?

How do psychologist design their research and what special problems can arise?

Content

Vocabulary

Psychodynamic Perspective, Behavioral Perspective, Humanistic Perspective, Physiological Perspective, Cognitive Perspective, Psychology, Hypothesis, Theory, Basic Science, Applied Science, Scientific Method, Introspection, Psychoanalyst, Behaviorist, Humanist, Psychologist, Clinical Psychologist, Counseling Psychologist, Psychiatry, Developmental Psychologist, Educational Psychologist, Industrial/Organizational, Psychologist, Experimental Psychologist, Structuralism, Functionalism, Survey, Case Study, Naturalistic Observation, Correlation, Experimentation, Sample, Population, Random Sample, Random Assignment, Dependent Variable, Independent Variable, Control Group, Experimental Group, Placebo Effect, Single-Blind Study, Double-Blind Study.

Important People

Wilhelm Wundt, William James, Sigmund Freud, John B. Watson, B.F. Skinner, Abraham Maslow, Carl Rogers, Jean Piaget, Edward Titchener, Max Wertheimer, Carl Rogers

Learning Objectives

Compare the relationship between psychological theories and scientific research.

Categorize basic elements of an experiment.

Explore the careersin the field of Psychology.

Evaluate trends in psychology past and present.

Assess early psychologists' effort to understand the structures of the mind.

Compare the different perspectives from which psychologists examine behavior and mental processes.

Appraise the relationship between psychological theories and scientific research

Standards

I. History and Approaches

AP students in psychology should be able to do the following:

- Recognize how philosophical perspectives shaped the development of psychological thought
- Describe and compare different theoretical approaches in explaining behavior: — structuralism, functionalism, and behaviorism in the early years; — Gestalt, psychoanalytic/psychodynamic, and humanism emerging later; — evolutionary, biological, and cognitive as more contemporary approaches.
- Recognize the strengths and limitations of applying theories to explain behavior
- Distinguish the different domains of psychology: — biological, clinical, cognitive, counseling,

developmental, educational, experimental, human factors, industrial–organizational, personality, psychometric, and social.

Identify the major historical figures in psychology (e.g., Mary Whiton Calkins, Charles Darwin, Dorothea Dix, Sigmund Freud, G. Stanley Hall, William James, Ivan Pavlov, Jean Piaget, Carl Rogers, B. F. Skinner, Margaret Floy Washburn, John B. Watson, Wilhelm Wundt).

II. Research Methods

AP students in psychology should be able to do the following:

Differentiate types of research (e.g., experiments, correlational studies, survey research, naturalistic observations, and case studies) with regard to purpose, strengths, and weaknesses.

Describe how research design drives the reasonable conclusions that can be drawn (e.g., experiments are useful for determining cause and effect; the use of experimental controls reduces alternative explanations).

Identify independent, dependent, confounding, and control variables in experimental designs.

Distinguish between random assignment of participants to conditions in experiments and random selection of participants, primarily in correlational studies and surveys.

Predict the validity of behavioral explanations based on the quality of research design (e.g., confounding variables limit confidence in research conclusions).

Distinguish the purposes of descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

Apply basic descriptive statistical concepts, including interpreting and constructing graphs and calculating simple descriptive statistics (e.g., measures of central tendency, standard deviation).

Discuss the value of reliance on operational definitions and measurement in behavioral research.

Identify how ethical issues inform and constrain research practices.

Describe how ethical and legal guidelines (e.g., those provided by the American Psychological Association, federal regulations, local institutional review boards) protect research participants and promote sound ethical practice.

HPE.2.1.12.A	Personal Growth and Development
HPE.2.4.12	All students will acquire knowledge about the physical, emotional, and social aspects of human relationships and sexuality and apply these concepts to support a healthy, active lifestyle.
SCI.9-12.SI.1.1	Development of psychology as an empirical science