2026-2027 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT - AP PSYCHOLOGY

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Dear Future Psychologist,

I am honored to have the opportunity to teach you AP Psychology this coming school year. The purpose of the Advanced Placement course in Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental process of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields of psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in the practice of their science. The aim of the course is to provide the student with a rigorous learning experience, equivalent to most college introductory psychology courses, and aligning to standards and practices set forth by the College Board. Students completing this course will be prepared to take the AP Psychology exam in May. Summer reading and writing assignments for students entering Psychology affords students an introduction to the content, rigor, and methods of the Psychology course. Students will be required to complete the following summer assignments. The following assignments are MANDATORY and must be completed before school starts. The course work will be graded, and students will be tested on the content within the first two weeks of school.

Mrs. Melody Spires-Howe

AP Psychology Course Description

This course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, analyze bias, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

Course Textbook (School Provided)

- Myers' Psychology for AP 4th Edition. 2024. BFW/Worth Publishers.

Part One: Perspectives and Psychologists

In the world of psychology, there are several perspectives (approaches) that psychologists use to describe and explain human behavior and mental processes. The different perspectives can be seen as lenses through which you can study psychology.

Using the internet (reliable websites) or any online psychology textbook, research the eight perspectives and replicate the chart below (just include the underline column titles not the instructions).

This should be **typed and brief- no more than front/back of one sheet of paper.**

- The Perspectives (Approach) Chart will count as the first **minor grade** of the first nine weeks. **Due on the first day of school.**

Psychological Perspective	Focus of the Perspective (Basic Beliefs & Assumptions) - *Be clear and concise.* - ***Just a sentence or two.***	Psychologists Associate with the Perspective (List the names of important psychologists (2-3) associated with this perspective- be sure to include any theories or experiments associated with their work in this perspective.) - This can be bullet pointed and brief. - For example: - Ivan Pavlov- Classical Conditioning
Behavioral		
Biological		
Evolutionary		
Humanistic		
Psychodynamic		
Cognitive		
Social-Cultural		
Biopsychosocial		

Part Two: Research Methods

Psychological research is the basis for the psychological world and the Advanced Placement curriculum. Psychologists apply the understanding gleaned through research to create evidence-based strategies that solve problems and improve lives.

The result is that psychological science unveils new and better ways for people to exist and thrive in a complex world.

VOCABULARY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS CLASS! Each unit has 45- 80 terms. Both components of the AP Psychology exam, the Multiple Choice and Free Response Questions, are driven by vocabulary terms. Use the following Quizlet link and/or the attached Quizlet printout to study the terms from the first unit.

Unit 0: An Introduction to Psychological Science Practices: Research Methods and Data Interpretation

https://quizlet.com/895766692/myers-psychology-for-the-ap-course-4e-unit-0-english-flash-cards/?i=1lxs72&x=1jqt

- We will take a **quiz over the Research Methods terms within the first two weeks of school.**

If you have any questions about the assignments, please feel free to contact me at

SpireMe@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us or via Remind- the code to join is located above.

Have a great summer!!!