

AP Psychology: Summer Assignment

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Course Description: About the AP Psychology Course The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

College Course Equivalent:The AP Psychology course is equivalent to an introductory college-level psychology course.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for AP Psychology. Students should be able to read a college-level textbook and to express themselves clearly in writing.

Exam Overview: The AP Psychology Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning objectives outlined in the course framework.

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Exam	Timing
I	Multiple-Choice Questions	75	66.7%	90 minutes
II	Free-Response Questions	2	33.3%	70 minutes
	Question 1: Article Analysis Question	1	16.65%	
	Question 2: Evidence-Based Question	1	16.65%	

Units of Instruction

Exam Weighting

Unit 1: Biological Bases of Behavior	15–25%
Unit 2: Cognition	15–25%
Unit 3: Development and Learning	15–25%
Unit 4: Social Psychology and Personality	15–25%
Unit 5: Mental and Physical Health	15–25%

Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Psychology! This is one of my favorite classes to teach. I hope that you will enjoy it. You will have four distinct Summer assignments, as outlined below. Please check our Google Classroom weekly for updates.

Google classroom: _____

AP Central join code: TBA after July 1, 2026

Assignment #1 – Introduction to Psychology and Introduction to the brain

Watch the Videos, which can be found through the “Edpuzzle” assignment link in google classroom. Your responses will be automatically submitted through EdPuzzle. Please complete by **August 26, 2026**. You may watch them several times. Answer all questions. You will have a test on the concepts and terms in September.

Assignment #2 Reading

Hock, R. R. (1995). *Forty studies that changed psychology: Explorations into the history of psychological research* (2nd ed.). Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Abstract

How do we know what we know about human behavior? How did Piaget revolutionize our understanding of intellectual development? What did Pavlov really discover about salivating dogs? What is the story behind Masters and Johnson's research into human sexual response? These and many other questions are answered in this [volume]. Roger R. Hock describes and explains 40 of the most influential studies that have shaped our understanding of human behavior during psychology's brief history.

Each study is presented within a consistent format, including: a brief introduction and overview of historical events leading up to the study; the theory and hypotheses underlying the research; the research design and methods used to carry out the research; a clear summary of the results in non-technical, non-statistical language; an interpretation of the findings based on the authors' discussion in the original article; an exploration of the study's significance to the field of psychology; a discussion of the subsequent research launched by the study as well as criticisms of the research; a brief sampling of very recent applications of the original study's findings. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Using the book, Hock, R. R. (1995). *Forty studies that changed psychology: Explorations into the history of psychological research* (2nd ed.). Prentice-Hall, Inc.:

- a. Read pages XV-XIX. Ethics are an important aspect of psychology.
 - i. Take notes on the subject of ethics. This should be in your own handwriting labeled "Ethics"
- b. Read pages 19-27 Are you a "Natural?"
 - i. Write a brief summary of this study, in your own handwriting. Address the following:
 1. What were they studying
 2. What Methodology did the researchers use?
 3. What were the conclusions

Assignment #3 - Note cards:

TERMS AND CONCEPTS FLASHCARDS

You are responsible for defining all of the following terms

and concepts on flash cards. You will use the vocabulary listed below. On one side of an index card (or similar facsimile), write the word; on the other side, write its definition. Flash cards should be no larger than 3X5 and they must be hand-written in your own handwriting. On the day of the test, place your flash cards in a Ziploc bag, label the Ziploc bag with your name and class period, and turn in the bag. You will be graded on the thoroughness and accuracy of your cards. **Due: upon return to school in September**

Vocabulary:

critical thinking

hindsight bias

peer reviewers

theory

Hypothesis

operational definition

Replication

case study

naturalistic observation

survey

social desirability bias

self-report bias

sampling bias

random sample

population

correlation

correlation coefficient

variable

scatterplot

illusory correlation.

regression toward the mean

experiment

experimental group

control group

random assignment

single-blind procedure

double-blind procedure

placebo effect

independent variable

confounding variable

experimenter bias

dependent variable

validity

quantitative research

qualitative research

informed consent

debriefing

descriptive statistics

histogram

mode

mean

median

percentile

rank

skewed

distribution

Range

standard deviation

normal curve

inferential statistics

meta-analysis

statistical significance

effect size

*** The best place to find the definitions will be in your online textbook. Until you have access to it, you can use the "Old Myer's text book". It can be found in Google Classroom, in a pdf form.

Assignment #4: Three Identical Strangers

This movie has been a favorite among AP Psychology students.

- A. Watch the movie, which can be found through the “Edpuzzle” assignment link in google classroom. Your responses will be automatically submitted through EdPuzzle. Please complete by **August 26, 2026**. Answer all questions.

- B. Write an essay, you should:
 - a. Reflect on the topic of the movie.
 - b. Compare and contrast the study conducted in The movie with the reading in Assignment #2.
 - c. Include thoughts and reactions to the content of the movie.

**If you have any questions, or concerns, do not hesitate to contact or reach out.
Most of all, Enjoy your Summer!**