

## AP Psychology Exam

The AP Psychology exam will assess your understanding of the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. The two hour exam will be held on **May 4, 2015 at Noon**. The cost for this exam will be \$91, if you are in need of financial assistance please see your guidance counselor or Ms. Baxter.

### Scores:

Exams are created to assess your ability to earn college credit or placement and are scored by computer and trained readers. Possible scores are:

5 Extremely well qualified

4 Well qualified

3 Qualified

2 Possibly qualified

1 No recommendation

### Content Outline

These are the major content areas covered by the AP Psychology Exam, as well as the approximate percentages of the multiple-choice section that are devoted to each area.

Content Area	Percentage Goals for Exam
I. History and Approaches . . . . .	2–4%
A. History of Psychology	
B. Approaches	
1. Biological	
2. Behavioral	
3. Cognitive	
4. Humanistic	
5. Psychodynamic	
6. Sociocultural	
7. Evolutionary	
8. Biopsychosocial	
C. Subfields in Psychology	
II. Research Methods . . . . .	8–10%
A. Experimental, Correlational, and Clinical Research	
B. Statistics	
1. Descriptive	
2. Inferential	

C. Ethics in Research	
III. Biological Bases of Behavior	8–10%
A. Physiological Techniques (e.g., imaging, surgical)	
B. Neuroanatomy	
C. Functional Organization of Nervous System	
D. Neural Transmission	
E. Neuroplasticity	
F. Endocrine System	
G. Genetics	
H. Evolutionary Psychology	
IV. Sensation and Perception	6–8%
A. Thresholds and Signal Detection Theory	
B. Sensory Mechanisms	
C. Attention	
D. Perceptual	
V. States of Consciousness	2–4%
A. Sleep and Dreaming	
B. Hypnosis	
C. Psychoactive Drug Effects	
VI. Learning	7–9%
A. Classical Conditioning	
B. Operant Conditioning	
C. Cognitive Processes	
D. Biological Factors	
E. Social Learning	
VII. Cognition	8–10%
A. Memory	
B. Language	
C. Thinking	
D. Problem Solving and Creativity	
VIII. Motivation and Emotion	6–8%

A. Biological Bases	
B. Theories of Motivation	
C. Hunger, Thirst, Sex, and Pain	
D. Social Motives	
E. Theories of Emotion	
F. Stress	
IX. Developmental Psychology . . . . .	7–9%
A. Life-Span Approach	
B. Research Methods (e.g., longitudinal, cross-sectional)	
C. Heredity–Environment Issues	
D. Developmental Theories	
E. Dimensions of Development	
1. Physical	
2. Cognitive	
3. Social	
4. Moral	
F. Sex and Gender Development	
X. Personality . . . . .	5–7%
A. Personality Theories and Approaches	
B. Assessment Techniques	
C. Growth and Adjustment	
XI. Testing and Individual Differences . . . . .	5–7%
A. Standardization and Norms	
B. Reliability and Validity	
C. Types of Tests	
D. Ethics and Standards in Testing	
E. Intelligence	
XII. Abnormal Behavior . . . . .	7–9%
A. Definitions of Abnormality	
B. Theories of Psychopathology	
C. Diagnosis of Psychopathology	
D. Types of Disorders	

1. Anxiety
2. Bipolar and Related
3. Depressive
4. Dissociative
5. Feeding and Eating
6. Neurodevelopmental
7. Neurocognitive
8. Obsessive-Compulsive and Related
9. Personality
10. Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic
11. Somatic Symptom and Related
12. Trauma- and Stressor-Related

XIII. Treatment of Abnormal Behavior ..... 5–7%

A. Treatment Approaches

1. Psychodynamic
2. Humanistic
3. Behavioral
4. Cognitive
5. Biological

B. Modes of Therapy (i.e., individual, group)

C. Community and Preventive Approaches

XIV. Social Psychology ..... 8–10%

A. Group Dynamics

B. Attribution Processes

C. Interpersonal Perception

D. Conformity, Compliance, Obedience

E. Attitudes and Attitude Change

F. Organizational Behavior

G. Aggression/Antisocial Behavior

H. Cultural Influences