

AP Psychology  
Introduction and Ch. 1 vocab

the scientific study of behavior and mental processes		psychology	
the view that knowledge comes from experience via the senses		empiricism	
science flourishes through observation and experiment		empiricism	
an early school of psychology that used introspection to explore the elemental structure of the human mind		structuralism	
a school of psychology that focused on how mental and behavioral processes enable the organism to adapt, survive, and flourish		functionalism	
the longstanding controversy over the relative contributions that genes and experience make the development of psychological traits and behaviors		nature-nurture issue	
the principle that those contributing to reproduction and survival will most likely be passed onto succeeding generations		natural selection	
the differing complementary views, from biological to psychological to social-cultural, for analyzing any given phenomenon		levels of analysis	
an integrated perspective that incorporates biological, psychological, and social-cultural levels of analysis		biopsychosocial approach	
pure science that aims to increase the scientific knowledge base		basic research	
scientific study that aims to solve practical problems		applied research	
a branch of psychology that assists people with problems in living and in achieving greater well-being		counseling psychology	
a branch of psychology that studies, assesses, and treats people with psychological disorders		clinical psychology	
a branch of medicine dealing with psychological disorders		psychiatry	
practiced by physicians who sometimes provide medical treatments as well as psychological therapy		psychiatry	
historically significant perspective that emphasized the growth potential of healthy people		humanistic psychology	
used personalized methods to study personality in hopes of fostering personal growth		humanistic psychology	
the tendency to believe, after learning an outcome, that one would have foreseen it		hindsight bias	
thinking that does not blindly accept arguments and conclusions		critical thinking	

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thinking that examines assumptions, discerns hidden values, evaluates evidence, and assesses conclusions		critical thinking
an explanation using an integrated set of principles that organizes and predicts observations		theory
a testable prediction, often implied by a theory		hypothesis
a statement of the procedures used to define research variables		operational definitions
repeating the essence of a research study, usually with different participants in different situations		replication
repeating a research study to see whether the basic finding extends to other participants and circumstances		replication
an observation technique in which one person is studied in depth in the hope of revealing universal principles		case study
a technique for ascertaining the self-reported attitudes or behaviors of people		survey
questioning a representative, random sample of people		survey
the tendency to overestimate the extent to which others share our beliefs and behaviors		false consensus effect
all the cases in a group, from which samples may be drawn for a study		population
a sample that fairly represents a population because each member has an equal chance of inclusion		random sample
observing and recording behavior in naturally occurring situations without trying to manipulate and control the situation		naturalistic observation
a measure of the extent to which two factors vary together		correlation
how well either factor predicts the other		correlation
mathematical expression of a relationship, ranging from -1 to +1		correlation coefficient
a graphed cluster of dots, each of which represents the values of two variables		scatterplot
the slope of the points suggests the directions of the relationship between the two variables		scatterplot
the amount of scatter suggests the strength of the correlation		scatterplot
a perception of a relationship where none exists		illusory correlation

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a research method in which an investigator manipulates one or more factors to observe the effect on some behavior or mental process		experiment	
by random assignment, this research method aims to control other relevant factors		experiment	
an experimental procedure in which both the research participants and the research staff are ignorant about whether the research participants have received the treatment or a placebo		double-blind procedure	
commonly used in drug-evaluation		double-blind procedure	
experimental results caused by expectations alone		placebo	
any effect on behavior caused by the administration of an inert substance or condition, which is assumed to be an active agent		placebo	
the condition of an experiment that exposes participants to the treatment, that is, one version of the independent variable		experimental condition	
the condition of an experiment that contrasts with the experimental condition and serves as a comparison for evaluating the effect of the treatment		control condition	
assigning participants to experimental and control conditions by chance		random assignment	
minimizing preexisting differences between those assigned to the different groups		random assignment	
the experimental factor that is manipulated		independent variable	
the variable whose effect is being studied		independent variable	
the outcome factor		dependent variable	
the variable that may change in response to manipulations of the independent variable		dependent variable	
the enduring behaviors, ideas, attitudes, and traditions shared by a large groups of people and transmitted form one generation to the next		culture	