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| 36 | A | B | C | D | E |
| 37 | A | B | C | D | E |
| 38 | A | B | C | D | E |
| 39 | A | B | C | D | E |

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

College Board AP - United Kingdom

# APPSY

AP Psychology

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

# Before you begin

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## What this is

9 practice questions for College Board AP - United Kingdom **APPSY**, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

## If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, **APPSY**
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

**QUESTION 1**

SINGLE CHOICE

A researcher wants to study how sleep deprivation affects memory performance in college students. Which research method would best allow the researcher to establish a cause-and-effect relationship between sleep deprivation and memory?

- ☐ A A naturalistic observation of students' study habits in the dormitory
- ☐ B A correlational survey measuring hours of sleep and exam scores
- ☒ C An experiment in which participants are randomly assigned to either a sleep-deprived or a normal-sleep condition
- ☐ D A case study describing the memory problems of one chronically sleep-deprived student

**ANSWER C**

**WHY** Only an experiment with random assignment to conditions can establish a cause-and-effect relationship. Random assignment controls for confounding variables, allowing the researcher to attribute differences in memory performance to the manipulation of sleep. Correlational and observational methods can describe relationships but cannot determine causation.

**QUESTION 2**

SINGLE CHOICE

Damage to the hippocampus in a human patient would most likely result in difficulty with which of the following?

- ☐ A Regulating heart rate and blood pressure
- ☒ B Forming new declarative memories of recent events
- ☐ C Producing fluent speech and understanding grammar
- ☐ D Detecting light and transmitting signals to the visual cortex

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** The hippocampus is critical for the formation of new declarative (explicit) memories, particularly episodic memories of recent events. Patients with hippocampal damage, such as H.M., can typically still form procedural memories and retain older memories formed before the damage. Heart rate is regulated by the medulla, speech production by Broca's area, and visual detection begins at the retina.

**QUESTION 3**

SINGLE CHOICE

A teacher dims the classroom lights and asks students to notice how long it takes for their vision to adjust. Which photoreceptor is primarily responsible for allowing them to see in this low-light environment?

- ☐ A Cones, because they are concentrated in the fovea and detect fine detail
- ☐ B Cones, because they respond well to dim light and color
- ☒ C Rods, because they are sensitive to low levels of illumination
- ☐ D Rods, because they are concentrated in the fovea and provide sharp central vision

**ANSWER C**

**WHY** Rods are the photoreceptors responsible for vision in low-light (scotopic) conditions. They are highly sensitive to light but do not detect color and are located primarily in the peripheral retina, not the fovea. Cones, by contrast, require more light, detect color, and are concentrated in the fovea for sharp, detailed daytime vision.

**QUESTION 4**

SINGLE CHOICE

Every time a rat presses a lever, a food pellet is delivered. The rat quickly learns to press the lever frequently. Which schedule of reinforcement is being used?

- ☒ A Fixed-ratio
- ☐ B Variable-ratio
- ☐ C Fixed-interval
- ☐ D Variable-interval

**ANSWER A**

**WHY** A fixed-ratio (FR) schedule reinforces a behavior after a set number of responses—in this case, every single lever press produces one food pellet (an FR-1 schedule). This produces a high, steady rate of responding. Variable-ratio schedules (e.g., slot machines) also produce high rates but after an unpredictable number of responses. Interval schedules reinforce the first response after a set (fixed) or variable amount of time.

**QUESTION 5**

SINGLE CHOICE

When trying to remember a long list of words, a person groups them into meaningful categories such as animals, furniture, and tools. This memory strategy is best described as:

- ☒ **A** Chunking
- ☐ B Method of loci
- ☐ C Eidetic encoding
- ☐ D State-dependent retrieval

**ANSWER A**

**WHY** Chunking is the process of organizing information into meaningful units or groups, which expands the capacity of working memory (as demonstrated by George Miller's classic work on the magical number seven). The method of loci is a specific mnemonic that places items along a familiar spatial path, eidetic encoding refers to photographic-like memory, and state-dependent retrieval refers to the idea that recall is best when encoding and retrieval states match.

**QUESTION 6**

SINGLE CHOICE

According to Piaget's theory of cognitive development, in which stage does a child first develop the ability to perform mental operations and think logically about concrete events?

- ☐ A Sensorimotor
- ☐ B Preoperational
- ☒ **C Concrete operational**
- ☐ D Formal operational

**ANSWER C**

**WHY** Piaget's concrete operational stage (approximately ages 7 to 11) is when children first gain the ability to perform mental operations and apply logical reasoning to concrete, physical objects and events. They master conservation, classification, and seriation during this stage. The sensorimotor stage (0–2) involves learning through senses and motor actions, preoperational (2–7) is characterized by symbolic thought but not logical operations, and formal operational (12+) involves abstract and hypothetical reasoning.

**QUESTION 7**

SINGLE CHOICE

A person loudly declares at a party that she is not at all shy and enjoys meeting new people. Her actual behavior—avoiding eye contact and standing in the corner—suggests she is quite shy. This discrepancy illustrates the concept of:

- ☐ A Self-serving bias
- ☐ B Reciprocal determinism
- ☒ C Incongruence between self-concept and behavior
- ☐ D Diffusion of responsibility

**ANSWER C**

**WHY** The scenario describes incongruence between self-concept (how one views oneself) and actual behavior, a concept emphasized by Carl Rogers in humanistic personality theory. Self-serving bias is the tendency to attribute successes to oneself and failures to external factors. Reciprocal determinism is Bandura's idea that person, behavior, and environment interact. Diffusion of responsibility is the social psychology phenomenon in which individuals are less likely to help when others are present.

**QUESTION 8**

SINGLE CHOICE

A person experiences sudden, intense episodes of overwhelming fear that peak within minutes and include heart palpitations, shortness of breath, and a fear of losing control. These episodes occur unexpectedly and are followed by persistent worry about having another attack. The most likely diagnosis is:

- ☐ A Generalized anxiety disorder
- ☒ B Panic disorder
- ☐ C Agoraphobia without history of panic disorder
- ☐ D Specific phobia

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** Panic disorder is characterized by recurrent, unexpected panic attacks—abrupt surges of intense fear with physical symptoms peaking within minutes—followed by at least one month of worry about additional attacks or maladaptive behavior changes. Generalized anxiety disorder involves persistent, excessive worry across many domains rather than discrete attacks. Specific phobia is fear of a particular object or situation, and agoraphobia involves fear of places or situations from which escape would be difficult.

**QUESTION 9**

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

A researcher calculates a correlation coefficient of  $r = -0.85$  between hours spent watching violent television and prosocial behavior scores in adolescents. Which of the following statements are accurate interpretations of this result? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** The negative sign indicates an inverse relationship between the two variables.
- ☐ **B** The negative sign indicates that the study lacked random assignment.
- ☒ **C** The magnitude (0.85) indicates a strong relationship between the variables.
- ☐ **D** The magnitude (0.85) proves that watching violent television causes lower prosocial behavior.

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**ANSWER A - C**

**WHY** The sign of a correlation coefficient indicates direction: a negative sign means that as one variable increases, the other tends to decrease (an inverse relationship). The absolute value indicates strength:  $|0.85|$  is considered a strong relationship. Correlation never proves causation regardless of magnitude—experimental designs with random assignment are required to establish cause and effect. The negative sign does not indicate anything about random assignment.