

Grades 9-12: Psychology

Adopted 2016

Psychology

Scientific Inquiry

1. Development of psychology as an empirical science: **SS.P.1**
 - a. Define psychology as a discipline and identify its goals as a science. **SS.P.1.A**
 - b. Describe the emergence of psychology as a scientific discipline. **SS.P.1.B**
 - c. Describe perspectives employed to understand behavior and mental processes. **SS.P.1.C**
 - d. Explain how psychology evolved as a scientific discipline. **SS.P.1.D**
2. Major subfields within psychology: **SS.P.2**
 - a. Discuss the value of both basic and applied psychological research with human and non-human animals. **SS.P.2.A**
 - b. Describe the major subfields of psychology. **SS.P.2.B**
 - c. Identify the important role psychology plays in benefiting society and improving people's lives. **SS.P.2.C**
3. Research methods and measurements used to study behavior and mental processes: **SS.P.3**
 - a. Describe the scientific method and its role in psychology. **SS.P.3.A**
 - b. Describe and compare a variety of quantitative (e.g., surveys, correlations, experiments) and qualitative (e.g., interviews, narratives, focus groups) research methods. **SS.P.3.B**
 - c. Define systematic procedures used to improve the validity of research findings, such as external validity. **SS.P.3.C**

Biopsychological

4. Structure and function of the nervous system in human and non-human animals: [SS.P.4](#)
 - a. Identify the major divisions and subdivisions of the human nervous system. [SS.P.4.A](#)
 - b. Identify the parts of the neuron and describe the basic process of neural transmission [SS.P.4.B](#)
 - c. Differentiate between the structures and functions of the various parts of the central nervous system. [SS.P.4.C](#)
 - d. Describe lateralization of brain functions. [SS.P.4.D](#)
 - e. Discuss the mechanisms of, and the importance of, plasticity of the nervous system. [SS.P.4.E](#)
5. Structure and function of the endocrine system: [SS.P.5](#)
 - a. Describe how the endocrine glands are linked to the nervous system. [SS.P.5.A](#)
 - b. Describe the effects of hormones on behavior and mental processes. [SS.P.5.B](#)
 - c. Describe hormone effects on the immune system. [SS.P.5.C](#)
6. The interaction between biological factors and experience: [SS.P.6](#)
 - a. Describe concepts in genetic transmission. [SS.P.6.A](#)
 - b. Describe the interactive effects of heredity and environment. [SS.P.6.B](#)
 - c. Explain how evolved tendencies influence behavior. [SS.P.6.C](#)
7. Methods and issues related to biological advances: [SS.P.7](#)
 - a. Identify tools used to study the nervous system. [SS.P.7.A](#)
 - b. Describe advances made in neuroscience. [SS.P.7.B](#)
 - c. Discuss issues related to scientific advances in neuroscience and genetics. [SS.P.7.C](#)
8. The processes of sensation and perception: [SS.P.8](#)
 - a. Discuss processes of sensation and perception and how they interact. [SS.P.8.A](#)
 - b. Explain the concepts of threshold and adaptation. [SS.P.8.B](#)
9. The capabilities and limitations of sensory processes: [SS.P.9](#)
 - a. List forms of physical energy for which humans and non-human animals do and do not have sensory receptors. [SS.P.9.A](#)
 - b. Describe the visual sensory system. [SS.P.9.B](#)
 - c. Describe the auditory sensory system. [SS.P.9.C](#)
 - d. Describe other sensory systems, such as olfaction, gustation, and somesthesia (e.g., skin senses, kinesthesia, and vestibular sense). [SS.P.9.D](#)

10. Interaction of the person and the environment in determining perception: SS.P.10

- a. Explain Gestalt principles of perception. SS.P.10.A
 - b. Describe binocular and monocular depth cues. SS.P.10.B
 - c. Describe the importance of perceptual constancies. SS.P.10.C
 - d. Describe the nature of attention. SS.P.10.D
 - e. Explain how experiences and expectations influence perception. SS.P.10.E
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Cognition

11. Encoding of memory: SS.P.11

- a. Identify factors that influence encoding. SS.P.11.A
- b. Characterize the difference between shallow (surface) and deep (elaborate) processing SS.P.11.B
- c. Discuss strategies for improving the encoding of memory. SS.P.11.C

12. Storage and retrieval of memory: SS.P.12

- a. Describe the differences between working memory and long-term memory. SS.P.12.A
- b. Identify and explain biological processes related to how memory is stored. SS.P.12.B
- c. Analyze the importance of retrieval cues in memory. SS.P.12.C
- d. Discuss strategies for improving the retrieval of memories. SS.P.12.D

13. Basic elements comprising thought: SS.P.13

- a. Define cognitive processes involved in understanding information. SS.P.13.A
- b. Define processes involved in problem solving and decision making. SS.P.13.B
- c. Discuss non-human problem-solving abilities. SS.P.13.C

14. Obstacles related to thought: SS.P.14

- a. Describe obstacles to problem solving. SS.P.14.A
 - b. Describe obstacles to decision making. SS.P.14.B
 - c. Describe obstacles to making good judgments. SS.P.14.C
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Development and Learning

15. Classical conditioning: SS.P.15

- a. Describe the principles of classical conditioning. SS.P.15.A
- b. Describe clinical and experimental examples of classical conditioning. SS.P.15.B
- c. Apply classical conditioning to everyday life. SS.P.15.C

16. Operant conditioning: SS.P.16

- a. Describe the Law of Effect. SS.P.16.A
 - b. Describe the principles of operant conditioning. SS.P.16.B
 - c. Describe clinical and experimental examples of operant conditioning. SS.P.16.C
 - d. Apply operant conditioning to everyday life. SS.P.16.D
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Sociocultural Context

17. Social cognition: SS.P.17

- a. Describe attributional explanations of behavior. SS.P.17.A
- b. Describe the relationship between attitudes (implicit and explicit) and behavior. SS.P.17.B
- c. Identify persuasive methods used to change attitudes. SS.P.17.C

18. Social influence and relations: SS.P.18

- a. Describe effects of others' presence on individuals' behavior. SS.P.18.A
- b. Discuss how an individual influences group behavior. SS.P.18.B
- c. Discuss the nature and effects of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. SS.P.18.C
- d. Describe determinants of prosocial behavior. SS.P.18.D
- e. Discuss influences upon aggression and conflict. SS.P.18.E
- f. Discuss factors influencing attraction and relationships. SS.P.18.F

19. Social and cultural diversity: SS.P.19

- a. Define culture and diversity. SS.P.19.A
 - b. Identify how cultures change over time and vary within nations as well as internationally. SS.P.19.B
 - c. Discuss the relationship between culture and conceptions of self and identity. SS.P.19.C
 - d. Discuss psychological research examining race and ethnicity. SS.P.19.D
 - e. Discuss psychological research examining socioeconomic status. SS.P.19.E
 - f. Discuss how privilege and social power structures relate to stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination. SS.P.19.F
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Individual Variations

20. Perspectives on motivation: SS.P.20

- a. Explain biologically based theories of motivation. SS.P.20.A
- b. Explain cognitively based theories of motivation. SS.P.20.B
- c. Explain humanistic theories of motivation. SS.P.20.C
- d. Explain the role of culture in human motivation. SS.P.20.D

21. Perspectives on emotion: [SS.P.21](#)
- a. Explain the biological and cognitive components of emotion. [SS.P.21.A](#)
 - b. Discuss psychological research on basic human emotions. [SS.P.21.B](#)
 - c. Differentiate among theories of emotional experience. [SS.P.21.C](#)
22. Perspectives on abnormal behavior: [SS.P.22](#)
- a. Define psychologically abnormal behavior. [SS.P.22.A](#)
 - b. Describe historical and cross-cultural views of abnormality. [SS.P.22.B](#)
 - c. Describe major models of abnormality. [SS.P.22.C](#)
 - d. Discuss how stigma relates to abnormal behavior. [SS.P.22.D](#)
 - e. Discuss the impact of psychological disorders on the individual, family, and society. [SS.P.22.E](#)
23. Categories of psychological disorders: [SS.P.23](#)
- a. Describe the classification of psychological disorders. [SS.P.23.A](#)
 - b. Discuss the challenges associated with diagnosis. [SS.P.23.B](#)
 - c. Describe symptoms and causes of major categories of psychological disorders (including schizophrenic, mood, anxiety, and personality disorders). [SS.P.23.C](#)
 - d. Evaluate how different factors influence an individual's experience of psychological disorders. [SS.P.23.D](#)
24. Perspectives on treatment of Psychological Disorders: [SS.P.24](#)
- a. Explain how psychological treatments have changed over time and among cultures. [SS.P.24.A](#)
 - b. Match methods of treatment to psychological perspectives. [SS.P.24.B](#)
 - c. Explain why psychologists use a variety of treatment options. [SS.P.24.C](#)
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Application

25. Career options: [SS.P.25](#)
- a. Identify careers in psychological science and practice. [SS.P.25.A](#)
 - b. Identify resources to help select psychology programs for further study. [SS.P.25.B](#)
26. Educational requirements: [SS.P.26](#)
- a. Identify degree requirements for psychologists and psychology-related careers. [SS.P.26.A](#)
 - b. Identify resources to help select psychology programs for further study. [SS.P.26.B](#)

27. Vocational applications of psychological science: **SS.P.27**

- a.** Discuss ways in which psychological science addresses domestic and global issues. **SS.P.27.A**
- b.** Identify careers in psychological science that have evolved as a result of domestic and global issues. **SS.P.27.B**