West Virginia Social Studies

# Psychology

## Scientific Inquiry

**1 Development of psychology as an empirical science.** SS.P.1

1. Define psychology as a discipline and identify its goals as a science. SS.P.1.1
2. Describe the emergence of psychology as a scientific discipline. SS.P.1.2
3. Describe perspectives employed to understand behavior and mental processes. SS.P.1.3
4. Explain how psychology evolved as a scientific discipline. SS.P.1.4

**2 Major subfields within psychology.** SS.P.2

1. Discuss the value of both basic and applied psychological research with human and non-human animals. SS.P.2.1
2. Describe the major subfields of psychology. SS.P.2.2
3. Identify the important role psychology plays in benefiting society and improving people's lives. SS.P.2.3

**3 Research methods and measurements used to study behavior and mental processes.** SS.P.3

1. Describe the scientific method and its role in psychology. SS.P.3.1
2. Describe and compare a variety of quantitative (e.g., surveys, correlations, experiments) and qualitative (e.g., interviews, narratives, focus groups) research methods. SS.P.3.2
3. Define systematic procedures used to improve the validity of research findings, such as external validity. SS.P.3.3

## Biopsychology

**4 Structure and function of the nervous system in human and non-human animals.** SS.P.4

1. Identify the major divisions and subdivisions of the human nervous system. SS.P.4.1
2. Identify the parts of the neuron and describe the basic process of neural transmission. SS.P.4.2
3. Differentiate between the structures and functions of the various parts of the central nervous system. SS.P.4.3
4. Describe lateralization of brain functions. SS.P.4.4

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5. Discuss the mechanisms of, and the importance of, plasticity of the nervous system. SS.P.4.5

**5 Structure and function of the endocrine system.** SS.P.5

1. Describe how the endocrine glands are linked to the nervous system. SS.P.5.1
2. Describe the effects of hormones on behavior and mental processes. SS.P.5.2
3. Describe hormone effects on the immune system. SS.P.5.3

**6 The interaction between biological factors and experience.** SS.P.6

1. Describe concepts in genetic transmission. SS.P.6.1
2. Describe the interactive effects of heredity and environment. SS.P.6.2
3. Explain how evolved tendencies influence behavior. SS.P.6.3

**7 Methods and issues related to biological advances.** SS.P.7

1. Identify tools used to study the nervous system, including the brain. SS.P.7.1
2. Describe advances made in neuroscience. SS.P.7.2
3. Discuss issues related to scientific advances in neuroscience and genetics. SS.P.7.3

**8 The processes of sensation and perception.** SS.P.8

1. Discuss processes of sensation and perception and how they interact. SS.P.8.1
2. Explain the concepts of threshold and adaptation. SS.P.8.2

**9 The capabilities and limitations of sensory processes.** SS.P.9

1. List forms of physical energy for which humans and non-human animals do and do not have sensory receptors. SS.P.9.1
2. Describe the visual sensory system. SS.P.9.2
3. Describe the auditory sensory system. SS.P.9.3
4. Describe other sensory systems, such as olfaction, gustation, and somesthesis (e.g., skin senses, kinesthesis, and vestibular sense). SS.P.9.4

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

1. Explain Gestalt principles of perception. SS.P.10.1
2. Describe binocular and monocular depth cues. SS.P.10.2
3. Describe the importance of perceptual constancies. SS.P.10.3
4. Describe the nature of attention. SS.P.10.4
5. Explain how experiences and expectations influence perception. SS.P.10.5

**Cognition**

**11 Encoding of memory.** SS.P.11

1. Identify factors that influence encoding. SS.P.11.1
2. Characterize the difference between shallow (surface) and deep (elaborate) processing. SS.P.11.2

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3 Discuss strategies for improving the encoding of memory. SS.P.11.3

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

1 Describe the differences between working memory and long-term memory. SS.P.12.1

2 Identify and explain biological processes related to how memory is stored. SS.P.12.2

3 Analyze the importance of retrieval cues in memory. SS.P.12.3

4 Discuss strategies for improving the retrieval of memories. SS.P.12.4

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

1 Define cognitive processes involved in understanding information. SS.P.13.1

2 Define processes involved in problem solving and decision making. SS.P.13.2

3 Discuss non-human problem-solving abilities. SS.P.13.3

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

1 Describe obstacles to problem solving. SS.P.14.1

2 Describe obstacles to decision making. SS.P.14.2

3 Describe obstacles to making good judgments. SS.P.14.3

## Development and Learning

**15 Classical conditioning.** SS.P.15

1 Describe the principles of classical conditioning. SS.P.15.1

2 Describe clinical and experimental examples of classical conditioning. SS.P.15.2

3 Apply classical conditioning to everyday life. Methods and issues in life span development. SS.P.15.3

4 Explain the interaction of environmental and biological factors in development, including the role of the brain in all aspects of development. SS.P.15.4

5 Explain issues of continuity/discontinuity and stability/change. SS.P.15.5

6 Distinguish methods used to study development. SS.P.15.6

7 Describe the role of sensitive and critical periods in development. SS.P.15.7

**16 Operant conditioning.** SS.P.16

1 Describe the Law of Effect. SS.P.16.1

2 Describe the principles of operant conditioning. SS.P.16.2

3 Describe clinical and experimental examples of operant conditioning. SS.P.16.3

4 Apply operant conditioning to everyday life. SS.P.16.4

5 Physical, cognitive, and social development across the life span (prenatal, infancy, childhood, adolescence, emerging adulthood, adulthood, and older adulthood.) SS.P.16.5

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6 Identify key features of physical development from prenatal through older adulthood. SS.P.16.6

7 Identify key features of cognitive development from prenatal through older adulthood. SS.P.16.7

8 Identify key features of social development from prenatal through older adulthood. SS.P.16.8

**Sociocultural Context**

**17 Social cognition.** SS.P.17

1 Describe attributional explanations of behavior. SS.P.17.1

2 Describe the relationship between attitudes (implicit and explicit) and behavior. SS.P.17.2

3 Identify persuasive methods used to change attitudes. SS.P.17.3

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

1 Describe effects of others' presence on individuals' behavior. SS.P.18.1

2 Discuss how an individual influences group behavior. SS.P.18.2

3 Discuss the nature and effects of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. SS.P.18.3

4 Describe determinants of prosocial behavior. SS.P.18.4

5 Discuss influences upon aggression and conflict. SS.P.18.5

6 Discuss factors influencing attraction and relationships. SS.P.18.6

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

1 Define culture and diversity. SS.P.19.1

2 Identify how cultures change over time and vary within nations as well as internationally. SS.P.19.2

3 Discuss the relationship between culture and conceptions of self and identity. SS.P.19.3

4 Discuss psychological research examining race and ethnicity. SS.P.19.4

5 Discuss psychological research examining socioeconomic status. SS.P.19.5

6 Discuss how privilege and social power structures relate to stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination. SS.P.19.6

**Individual Variations**

**20 Perspectives on motivation.** SS.P.20

1 Explain biologically based theories of motivation. SS.P.20.1

2 Explain cognitively based theories of motivation. SS.P.20.2

3 Explain humanistic theories of motivation. SS.P.20.3

4 Explain the role of culture in human motivation. SS.P.20.4

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**21 Perspectives on emotion.** SS.P.21

1 Explain the biological and cognitive components of emotion. SS.P.21.1

2 Discuss psychological research on basic human emotions. SS.P.21.2

3 Differentiate among theories of emotional experience. SS.P.21.3

**22 Perspectives on abnormal behavior.** SS.P.22

1 Define psychologically abnormal behavior. SS.P.22.1

2 Describe historical and cross-cultural views of abnormality. SS.P.22.2

3 Describe major models of abnormality. SS.P.22.3

4 Discuss how stigma relates to abnormal behavior. SS.P.22.4

5 Discuss the impact of psychological disorders on the individual, family, and society. SS.P.22.5

**23 Categories of psychological disorders.** SS.P.23

1 Describe the classification of psychological disorders. SS.P.23.1

2 Discuss the challenges associated with diagnosis. SS.P.23.2

3 Describe symptoms and causes of major categories of psychological disorders (including schizophrenic, mood, anxiety, and personality disorders). SS.P.23.3

4 Evaluate how different factors influence an individual's experience of psychological disorders. SS.P.23.4

**24 Perspectives on treatment of psychological disorders.** SS.P.24

1 Explain how psychological treatments have changed over time and among cultures. SS.P.24.1

2 Match methods of treatment to psychological perspectives. SS.P.24.2

3 Explain why psychologists use a variety of treatment options. SS.P.24.3

## Application

**25 Career options.** SS.P.25

1 Identify careers in psychological science and practice. SS.P.25.1

2 Identify resources to help select psychology programs for further study. SS.P.25.2

**26 Educational requirements.** SS.P.26

1 Identify degree requirements for psychologists and psychology-related careers. SS.P.26.1

2 Identify resources to help select psychology programs for further study. SS.P.26.2

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

1 Discuss ways in which psychological science addresses domestic and global issues. SS.P.27.1

2 Identify careers in psychological science that have evolved as a result of domestic and global issues. SS.P.27.2