

# 2005 AP<sup>®</sup> PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

## PSYCHOLOGY

### SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

Percent of total grade— $33\frac{1}{3}$

**Directions:** You have 50 minutes to answer BOTH of the following questions. It is not enough to answer a question by merely listing facts. You should present a cogent argument based on your critical analysis of the questions posed, using appropriate psychological terminology.

1. Describe a specific example that clearly demonstrates an understanding of how each of the following concepts can lead to an inaccurate perception, cognition, or conclusion. Each example must include an explanation of the relationship between the concept and the inaccuracy.
  - Afterimage effect
  - Availability heuristic
  - Ethnocentrism
  - Groupthink
  - Lack of object permanence
  - Nonrandom assignment of research participants
  - Optimistic explanatory style
  - Proactive interference

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2. Psychologists conduct research to investigate controversial issues. Consider the following:

- The value of diagnostic labeling
- Children's acquisition of language
- Explanations of hypnosis

- A. Describe the opposing points of view on each of the psychological issues listed above. Your description must provide one argument on each side of the controversy.
- B. For each issue, choose one point of view to support. Using evidence from psychological research, justify why you think this point of view is correct.

**END OF EXAM**

**AP<sup>®</sup> PSYCHOLOGY**  
**2005 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 1**

Describe a specific example that clearly demonstrates an understanding of how each of the following concepts can lead to an inaccurate perception, cognition, or conclusion. Each example must include an explanation of the relationship between the concept and the inaccuracy.

- Afterimage effect
- Availability heuristic
- Ethnocentrism
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**General Issues**

1. Answers must be written in sentences (subject and verb), not outlines.
2. Expect answers to use psychological, not merely common, knowledge.
3. Defining a concept is not sufficient. However, a well-formed definition can provide the framework to interpret an example.
4. The answer for each point must contain two parts:
  - Specifics of a situation relevant to the concept—the origin of the inaccuracy.
  - A specific inaccuracy produced as a result of the situation.

**POINT 1: Afterimage Effect**

Requires:

- a. An example of misperception due to a sensory experience.
  - The example should use opponent process language and concepts (e.g., fatigue, passage of time, staring, stimulus intensity, complementary colors of red-green, blue-yellow, or black-white) OR mention a sensory or iconic event.  
HINT: Watch for language that describes a sensory event over a memory.
- b. Description of a specific afterimage.
  - The example does not have to specify opponent color; it can be “different” color or a positive afterimage.

**POINT 2: Availability Heuristic**

Requires:

- a. An example of information that is salient or readily available, whether derived from personal experience, the news, etc.
  - The origin of the information must be clear, e.g., the answer cannot just assert that a person “believes” planes are unsafe.
- b. An incorrect prediction based on information.
  - Overestimation is the typical direction, but underestimation could be valid example.