

2016 AP® PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY

SECTION II

Time—50 minutes

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

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. Ashley planned to drive from New York to California to attend college. However, shortly after departing, she became uncertain about which roads to take and called her parents for assistance with directions. Because she was distracted, she drove off the side of the road and grazed the front bumper of her car on the guardrail. Fortunately, the car was not too badly damaged, so she continued on her journey. Although she ultimately made it to California, she had a lingering fear of guardrails for several months following her experience.

Part A

Explain how each of the following might have helped Ashley drive from New York to California.
Definitions alone will not score.

- Motor neurons
- Retinal disparity
- Heuristic
- Procedural memory

Part B

Explain how each of the following might have led Ashley to have a negative experience on her trip from New York to California. Definitions alone will not score.

- Circadian rhythms
- Conditioned response
- Inattentional blindness

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2. In a geography course, Danny is required to learn the capital cities of every country of the world. At the end of the semester, the professor will randomly select twenty countries and give each student an oral quiz on the capital cities in front of the class.

Part A

Explain how each of the following might help Danny succeed with this task. Definitions alone will not score.

- Distributed practice
- A mnemonic device
- Secondary reinforcer
- Big Five trait of conscientiousness

Part B

Explain how each of the following might hinder Danny’s success with this task. Definitions alone will not score.

- Retroactive interference
- Self-fulfilling prophecy
- Sympathetic nervous system

STOP

END OF EXAM