

## **2001 AP® PSYCHOLOGY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

2. Describe the psychological concept of expectancy or set. Discuss a specific example of how expectancy or set affects each of the following.

- Human perception
- The effects of a psychoactive drug on a human
- A student's performance in the classroom
- Human problem solving
- Memory

**END OF EXAMINATION**

**AP® PSYCHOLOGY**  
**2001 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 2 (cont.)**

**HINTS**

1. Descriptions of the concept of expectancy or set (point #1) cannot be derived from definitions or examples provided in answers to subsequent points unless the answers makes it explicit that the definition is the focus of that part of the answer.
2. If answer begins with expectation of others or standards of behavior as the source, it may be hard to justify the source as a mental set or to link it to an outcome (e.g., parent's expectations that a student will do well in school do not automatically produce the desired outcome of good grades).

**General Considerations for Points 2 – 6:**

1. Points #2 – 5 require either:
  - a. A specific example that shows how an expectation involving a *psychological process appropriate to the question* leads to a cognitive or behavioral outcome. (Point #6 can be answered only this way.)

**OR**

- b. The use of a specific psychological term *appropriate to the question* that is tied to a cognitive or behavioral outcome. (It is inferred from the use of the term that the student knows the concept is an expectation or mental set.)
2. The thrust of all answers must demonstrate expectancy as the cause and producing an effect on cognitions, attitudes, or behavior as the outcome, not the other way around.

**Point #2: Human Perception**

1. Answer must provide a specific example of :
  - a. A sensation/perception phenomenon that results in a specific outcome.  
(e.g., We misread “Paris in the the spring” because we expect sentences to flow in a particular way.)

**OR**

- b. A mental set that influences how persons, objects, or situations are perceived that results in a specific outcome.  
(e.g., “I expect all postal workers are homicidal so I avoid the mail carrier”)

**OR**

2. Use of a specific psychological term relating to:
  - a) S&P (e.g., closure, Gestalt principle, top-down processing) that influences an identified outcome

**OR**

- b) Person/object/situation perception (e.g., stereotyping, schema, availability heuristic, fundamental attribution error) that influences an identified outcome  
(e.g., “Because of the availability heuristic, plane crash reports make me think plane travel is dangerous.)